

EDITORIAL
ACTIVE PRAYER

PERSPECTIVE
SOUL WINNING

JUST LIKE JESUS
TAKERS AND GIVERS

gleamer



NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

A NORTHWEST MISSION OPPORTUNITY

PARTNERS FOR PALAU

JUN
2018

VOL. 113, N° 5



By faith we understand that the universe
was formed at God's command, so that what
is seen was not made out of what was visible.
Hebrews 11:3

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



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JOHN FREEDMAN

gleaner

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*“Morning Mist”
in Sparks Lake, Ore.,
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of Vancouver, Wash.*

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ACTIVE PRAYER PERSONAL MINISTRY

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ne day, after a short absence from Jesus, the disciples found Him praying. Being totally absorbed in His communion with the Father, Jesus was unaware of their presence. He continued to pray aloud. Listening to His prayer, the hearts of the disciples were deeply moved.

Christian believers pray an average of only a few minutes a day.

As Jesus finished praying, they asked Him to teach them to pray. Jesus then gave His disciples what we call the Lord's Prayer. It's a beautiful model of prayer He first taught them during the Sermon on the Mount.

Then Jesus illustrated the lesson on prayer with a profound story.

"Which of you shall have a friend and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine in his journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?'"

Pausing, we observe several important lessons recorded here in Luke 18. First, we pray when we have a reason to pray. Christian believers pray an average of only a few minutes a day. Seventh-day Adventist

AUTHOR

John Freedman

we observe several

believers are no different. It is true that those who see the need of prayer will engage in prayer. The need presents itself in two areas:

OUR OWN PERSONAL NEED

When Jesus presented the model prayer or the Lord's Prayer, He presents mainly the personal needs of the petitioner. We will pray consistently and with passion, only if we see our personal need of forgiveness, deliverance from evil and spiritual food. Those who do not sense their need to be justified or sanctified will not pray. If we do not see the stark contrast between our personal life and the perfection and purity of Jesus, we will not sense the need of prayer. Without consistent and passionate prayer, there will not be consistent growth in the personal life, nor growth in character development.

THE NEED OF OTHERS

Another reason to pray consistently and with passion is to be actively involved in ministry for others. Actively seeking to minister to others needs, especially their need for salvation in Christ, provides us with many opportunities for prayer. Realizing our awesome responsibility to present the bread of heaven to others because of their great need and hunger for authentic spiritual life drives us to the only source

of authentic spiritual bread. Our God is the only source of fresh spiritual food. Remove ministry from a person's life, and there will be little reason to pray.

The General Conference is encouraging total member involvement (TMI) in ministry to others. The North Pacific Union Conference has adopted this initiative as one of our four strategic priorities. One way to kick start your prayer life is to get actively involved in ministry to others for Christ. If you are not sure how, ask your pastor. There are so many needs in our communities and local churches that go unmet year after year.

You can make a difference with your life united with the life and power of Jesus Christ. Engaged in ministry to others, we have the assistance of angels and the assurance that all the resources of heaven are available to help us.

John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president

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



ANNUAL MEETING

Under the direction of Fred Cornforth, president, members of the Northwest chapter of Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) gathered at the Edward D. Hansen Conference Center in Everett, Wash., April 20–22 for their annual meeting. They enjoyed inspiring messages from Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storycatcher; John McVay, Walla Walla University president; Doug Bing, Washington Conference president; and others.

ASI Northwest members also collaborated with hundreds of community volunteers to serve more than 1,000 needy city residents on Friday and Sunday during the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) free medical clinic (see the AMEN clinic article in the Washington Conference News section on page 26).

This is the second straight year Cornforth has positioned the annual meeting in conjunction with an AMEN clinic community outreach. It's an intentional effort to move away from a "retreat" motif and instead live out a core mission of the organization: "To promote a Christ-centered lifestyle by 'Sharing Christ in the Marketplace' through education, health programs, community services and evangelism."



(From left) Bob Paulsen, Puyallup, Wash., lay leader, sparks a conversation with Craig Carr, Washington Conference vice president, and John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president.

The annual convention for the international ASI organization is Aug. 1–4 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Fla. The next Northwest chapter meeting is planned for the Walla Walla Valley in April 2019.



More photos online at glnr.in/113-05-nw_asi

gn+



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



! OOPS

In the May 2018 *Gleaner*, the Montana Conference news article about Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) on page 16 included a statement regarding an MEA parent that was inadvertently edited to say, "I was given permission to share with you a letter from a UCA parent." The reference to UCA (Upper Columbia Academy) should instead have been to MEA.

+ PICTURE THIS

Future health care leaders.

SEE PAGE

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100 years in Chehalis.

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Can you say AMEN?

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McVay preaches it.

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Spiritual game planning.

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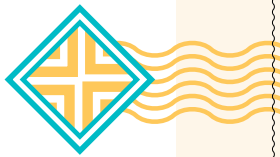


A NORTHWEST MISSION OPPORTUNITY

PARTNERS FOR PALAU

**MICRONESIA, THOUSANDS OF TINY ISLANDS SPRINKLED
ACROSS THE WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN, IS A CONTRAST:
THE WEALTH OF TROPICAL BEAUTY AMIDST THE STARK
LIMITATIONS OF OPPORTUNITY.**





Every year, scores of Seventh-day Adventist student missionaries (SMs) from colleges and universities across North America head to a year of service in these islands and atolls. There they find eager children ready to learn in far-flung places like Majuro, Pohnpei and Palau. Walla Walla University (WU) has sent out many of those student missionaries — some of whom are spread across the Northwest as WU alumni with treasured memories of their iconic SM year.

Now an opportunity has come to match those past memories with current and future possibilities. The North American Division (NAD) territory has extended in recent years to include the Guam-Micronesia Mission (GMM), which embraces the islands so often served by our student missionaries. To help with this expanded challenge, the NAD has given each of the nine union conferences in North America a specific area of responsibility within the GMM. The unique “assignment” for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) is to develop a growing partnership with Palau that may add resources and new opportunities for Palauan youth.

ASSESSING THE NEED

In February, a small NPUC delegation returned from a



Bri Johnson, Walla Walla University student missionary (*upper right*), mentors her grade school class, while John Freedman, NPUC president (*lower left*), meets with local Palau Church leaders to ascertain possibilities for partnership.



short visit to the island country of Palau to meet church leaders and assess ways for Northwest members to support this new mission opportunity. The group included John Freedman, NPUC president; Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president; and Doug Bing, Washington Conference president.

They returned with a list of ideas gained from observation and candid dialogue with GMM and Palauan church/school leaders, pastors, church

members and student missionaries. These ideas address several critical areas of need throughout Palau:

» **Upgrading Adventist educational facilities/resources:** The local elementary school and academy no longer offer the finest facilities in the islands of Palau. Desks, chairs, whiteboards, computers, audio-visual equipment and even textbooks are in great need of replacement. If Adventist education is to

remain a desirable mission outreach in Palau, these updates are necessary.

» **Creating better bridges to higher education:** Palauan youth have difficulty connecting to opportunities beyond what’s available on the island. Increased touches and options from mainland Adventist universities may help create better bridges between Palauan schools and future goals for Palauan young people.

A NORTHWEST MISSION OPPORTUNITY



Local leaders are eager for Northwest partnerships, while Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president (*next page*) shares a greeting with Palau Adventist Academy students.

- » **Big picture strategy:** GMM and Palau educational leadership can benefit from additional guidance in establishing a long-term plan for their schools. Northwest educators can help provide professional experience in that process.
- » **Student missionary mentoring:** Every student missionary could benefit from having a mainland mentor — a professional Adventist teacher who can join them regularly on FaceTime or Skype to be a sounding board.
- » **Youth ministry connections:** Palauan Pathfinders will gain from sponsorships to mainland camporees. Selected youth might benefit from sponsorships to a week or two at a Northwest summer camp.

During the 2017–18 school year, among the student missionaries on Palau, two were from Walla Walla University: Zayne Browning and Bri Johnson. Browning, who was focused on physical education efforts at the academy, acknowledged that many Palauan students could benefit from real opportunities beyond their current vision. Johnson, teaching in the elementary school, reiterated what many other SMs confirmed — new desks and chairs are desperately needed.

Leonard Quaile, GMM education director, says SMs are the lifeblood of the Adventist educational system in Micro-

nesia, and more are needed. “We need approximately 140 SMs a year to fill all our needed positions,” he says. “This past year, though, we were only able to fill about 70 of those slots. In the U.S. you’re trying to find students for the teachers. Here, we’re trying to find teachers for the students.”

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DELEGATION

Doug Bing, Washington Conference president, has a personal connection to Palau through his wife, Wilma, who, with her brother, spent earlier years in the area. Bing says, “It’s gratifying to see young people, our student missionaries, doing such integral work for the Adventist mission in Palau. We’re anxious to come alongside with encouragement and support in ways that make sense for Northwest members and our church in Palau.”

Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president, agrees. “I’m eager,” he says, “to encourage and empower this collaborative mission whenever and wherever possible.”

John Freedman, NPUC president, points out, however, that it’s not money that will make this partnership work. “The Holy Spirit is what will make the difference, building a passion within us to do what needs to be done in His way,” he says. “We need a collaborative spirit among us that brings us all together on a common goal.”

HISTORY

PALAU IS NOT JUST ONE ISLAND; IT’S AN ISLAND COUNTRY, AN ARCHIPELAGO OF SEVERAL HUNDRED ISLANDS AND ISLETS WITHIN AN AREA OF 180 SQUARE MILES. IT’S AT THE FAR WESTERN EDGE OF THE GMM TERRITORY, EAST OF THE PHILIPPINES, ABOUT 1,000 MILES DUE NORTH OF AUSTRALIA.

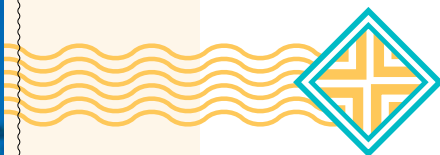


Peleliu, one of the Palauan islands, was the site of thousands of casualties during an intense World War II battle. Military relics from the battle are still visible on that island. In recent centuries, the islands have fallen under differing rulerships — Spain, Germany and Japan have exercised varying levels of control.

Following WWII, Palau was made a part of the United States-governed Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands but gained its sovereignty in 1994 under a compact of free association with the U.S.

Out of a total population of 21,000 people, there are more than 1,200 Seventh-day Adventist members, with approximately 350 students in Adventist-operated schools.

“IN THE U.S. YOU’RE TRYING TO FIND STUDENTS FOR THE TEACHERS. HERE, WE’RE TRYING TO FIND TEACHERS FOR THE STUDENTS.”



HOW NORTHWEST MEMBERS CAN HELP

These church leaders are not oblivious to their local challenges. Certainly, the Northwest has its own great needs. This highly unchurched, post-Christian culture is perhaps the most challenging mission field of all. Our Alaska Conference struggles to reach its vast territory. Every other conference — Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Upper Columbia and Washington — faces its own unique issues. So this new opportunity to help the Adventist mission in Palau is not a call to neglect Northwest priorities in favor of a new shiny project over the horizon.

It is, however, a chance for churches, schools and individual members to engage with a unique mission project all our own. Other entities around North America are mobilizing to help the remaining islands of Micronesia. Palau is our focus, our responsibility, our opportunity.

FROM THOUGHT TO ACTION

Northwest members can prayerfully move from thought to action to provide tangible help.

- » **Can this be the target of future short-term mission trips by Northwest members and students?**
- » **Is this a chance for Northwest Sabbath**

School classes to adopt a unique portion of the needs?

- » **Will elementary classrooms embrace sister relationships with corresponding grades in Palau?**

Adventists throughout the Northwest have historically been mission-minded. In recent decades they have given sacrificially for Operation Bearhug meetings in Russia and sponsored students on countless short-term mission trips around the world. This is the latest opportunity to extend our mission focus beyond our own shores.

A Partners for Palau web presence has been created at palau.npuc.org. We encourage interested churches, schools, Sabbath School classes and individual members to visit this online site to find tangible opportunities to help and a process to follow if they wish to collaborate on a particular project. Updated project information will be shared through the *Gleaner* and local conference communication channels in the weeks and months ahead.



LAS CLÍNICAS PARA EL ALMA LLEGAN A PAYETTE, IDAHO

Dígale al pastor que no se detenga de hacer lo que está haciendo para ayudarnos a sanar nuestras heridas emocionales con las enseñanzas de Jesucristo.” Éstas palabras salieron de los labios de una madre soltera para su amiga. Una de las noches ella pidió hablar con el pastor; él y su esposa la escucharon y la orientaron para superar una crisis depresiva que la atormentaba. Gracias al amor de la congregación ella quedó asistiendo a la iglesia. Ahora su amiga Luisa Alva no la trae, ella llega por su cuenta. Ya es de casa. La hermandad de Payette así hace sentir a todos sus amigos invitados.

Gracias a la iniciativa de uno de sus ancianos, el pastor y evangelista Carlos Guzmán, la iglesia decidió en preparación para Las Clínicas Para el Alma, volver a levantar el altar del Culto de Oración de los Miércoles por la noche. Además, 500 invitaciones se distribuyeron entre sus contactos, compañeros de trabajo, vecinos y familiares. Fue un trabajo de persona a persona. Y gracias a Dios el Espíritu Santo hizo el milagro. Cada noche hubo amigos invitados. Y de ellos, a la hora de la invitación para entregar a Cristo sus vidas, cuatro bellas almas decidieron hacerlo. Ellos son: Ruth Yessenia Uranga, Gregorio Juica y sus hijos,

Janela y Jorge Juica. Cada uno de ellos es un triunfo del amor de Dios. Nuestra hermana Ruth se rindió a los brazos de su Salvador y empezó una vida nueva aferrada de su mano. Su mayor anhelo ahora es preparar a sus hijas para que ellas también sigan a Jesús como su madre.

El pasado 24 de febrero de 2018 el pastor del distrito llevó a cabo la ceremonia donde unos se unieron por medio del bautismo y otros por profesión de fe. Dos semanas después abriría sus puertas el nuevo Instituto Bíblico de Discipulado (IBD) de la Iglesia. Y así como Jesús después de ser bautizado empezó su ministerio, el hermano



Gregorio Juica también empezó con entusiasmo a desempeñarse como sub director del IBD bajo la mentoría del pastor Carlos Guzmán. ¿Y las reuniones de oración de los Miércoles por la noche? La llama no deja de arder. Los nuevos miembros animan a todos a asistir a sus reuniones.

El pastor Juan Francisco Altamirano, coordina la labor de las iglesias de habla hispana en la Asociación de Idaho

Pastor Carlos Guzman toma el voto a los nuevos creyentes.



BETHEL CHURCH CELEBRATES ORDINATION WITH ALASKAN STYLE

As their love for the Lord grew fervently, some new members of the Bethel Church pledged themselves to work in the Lord's service by accepting church offices.

Unknown to some of them, the offices of deacon and deaconess normally calls for ordination. Because the church wanted this occasion to be extraordinary, it was planned to have the candidates wear *kuspuk* tops (a hooded overshirt with a large front pocket commonly worn among Alaska Natives). Enthusiastic members got material for the outfits and made them at home to ensure they had enough

kuspuks so that all, including Vecous Waite, the Arctic Mission Adventure leader, and his wife, Loretta, would have a traditional garment to wear.

It was a long-awaited occasion for the four officers. On Sabbath, March 24, during the afternoon session of the annual camp meeting, they were ordained for service. The four officers were called to sit in the front row of the church. Although not all of those who were ordained were Alaska Natives, they felt honored to wear this special outfit.

The event was spiritual, and the room was permeated with joy. Pastors Steve Huey from the North Pacific Union



(From left) Philip Tulik, Darlene Tulik, Tok Hui Kim and Aiden Keller, dressed in traditional kuspuks, embrace their roles of deacons and deaconesses for the Bethel Church.

Conference in Ridgefield, Wash., and Steve Everson, representing the Alaska Conference, charged the candidates and explained the roll of the office. This was followed by the prayer of consecration by Huey, Everson and Tobin Dodge, pastor. All elders present joined the pastors in the laying on of hands.

The ordination became the highlight of the camp meeting, which was electrified with heavenly music. The members so enjoyed the

quality of music and the joy it brought to the attendees, they asked the guests to stay in Bethel after camp meeting or return soon.

Vecous Waite, Bethel Adventist Company arctic mission volunteer

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KEVIN MILLER

LIVING IN THE
WORD

'I WANT TO KNOW MORE'

I met Toni and Buck at a sandwich shop, as we lamented being stranded in the Anchorage airport. They wore the tired, ragged air of people who had spent the last four days at the airport.

They finished the last of the soup they were sharing, the whiff of alcohol escaping with every bite. Lamenting about their long ordeal in getting back home to St. Mary's Village in bush Alaska turned to inquiry about me.

They thought I was a teacher, then a health care worker. I told them I had just moved to Alaska to work for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to build awareness of the challenges Alaskans face

and support for this mission program. They stared back at me. I could tell my message fell on deaf ears.

Toni's face dropped once she found out I was "church people." Buck assured me they were religious. With her head still bowed, Toni whispered that the church people don't come around very often in St. Mary's. I felt shallow, a green do-gooder who clearly was disconnected with these people.

In that moment, I decided to show the real me. I looked at them with as much love as I could muster and said, "Life is so hard, isn't it?"

Toni lifted her head and looked back at me. I told them we are put on this earth to lift

each other up, to encourage and love those like Christ loved us. Christ came into this world and didn't judge anyone. He found those that needed to be loved, put His arms around them and held them.

was boarding. As I stared into the eyes of the couple in front of me, dark with the haze of alcohol, hopelessness and despair familiar to many Alaskans, I felt helpless. Our Bible workers are only present

Remember the Arctic Mission Adventure during the June 30 special offering.

I told them that is what I believe, that is what my church believes in and that is why I am here — to share what Christ has done in my life. As tears streamed down their faces, Toni said, "I want to know more."

The airport intercom announced that my flight

in just a handful of the more than 230 villages in Alaska, and the village of St. Mary's is not one.

I asked if I could pray with them and reached for their hands. I asked God to reach down and hold these precious souls, to love them and direct them in the way that He would have them go. We said our goodbyes as Toni wiped her tears and I headed to the gate.

From my window seat on the plane, Toni's words kept ringing in my ears: "I want to know more." My mind traveled to Acts 16:9: "That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, 'come over to Macedonia and help us.'"

My interaction with Toni and Buck was a present-day plea to go and reach, teach and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ to bush Alaska.

Tandi Perkins, Arctic Missions Adventure development director

Only a handful of Alaska's villages have Adventist Bible workers in them.



POCATELLO CHURCH MEMBERS LEARN TO CONNECT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

A small group of church members gathered at the Pocatello Church on Friday evening, Feb. 2, to participate in a cross-cultural training seminar, led by Monte Church, retired North Pacific Union Conference Native ministries director. The Pocatello Church is near the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, home to the Shoshone-Bannock tribe. Pocatello Church members have for some time had an interest in reaching out to the Native Americans living on the reservation.

Currently, four members of the church regularly visit with inmates at the tribal jail on Friday evenings. Marcia Robles and her son, Brooks Davis, both live on the reservation. Lewis and Denese Eakins join with them for the jail visitation, which includes Bible study.

A great way to gain respect from the Native Americans is to do something for their children. Providing educational programs for children, especially involving arts and crafts, can begin to break through a cultivated mistrust of non-Natives.

The elderly are revered, as they provide wisdom needed to ensure the survival of the tribe. Most tribal councils are made up of the elders of the tribe, who approve anything



EVE RUSK

Monte Church shared a commissioned picture of a Native American standing in the Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary.

that involves the tribe or the reservation.

The Pocatello Church has an advantage in beginning an outreach on the reservation. Two of its members live there, and Davis is a member of the tribal council. Davis and Robles were baptized during the 2016 Idaho Conference Camp Meeting by José Rojas.

The training continued Sabbath morning and afternoon. A dinner and meeting followed at the home of Robles. Several other members of the tribe came. Music for

the weekend was provided by Bruce Twing, who often travels with Church for events such as this training seminar.

After the meal, a smaller group, including Robles and Davis, met with Church and Marvin Humbert, pastor of the Pocatello district, to begin planning how best to reach the Native Americans on the reservation.

Robles and Davis shared that the greatest need they see is for alcohol and drug rehabilitation. The number of Native Americans who

struggle with substance abuse is high. There is a need for a clinic and follow-up support for all. As their physical needs are met, there could be an opening for evangelism. Davis is on the tribal council and can act as a liaison for the church. Others have influence over the tribal funds, which can help in the development of a clinic.

The church members who attended the training seminar learned one needs to be patient, not in a hurry, when working with Native Americans. As with any other culture, it is helpful to understand the customs and traditions to connect with them in a positive way and to act like Jesus would, in a nonjudgmental way, in love.

Those who would like to financially support the outreach on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation can contact the North Pacific Union Native ministries department at 360-857-7037.

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication director

A group that attended the meal and meeting on Sabbath evening at the home of Marcia Robles included church and community members as well as the seminar leaders.



EVE RUSK

RONAN OPENS NEW GLACIER VIEW CHURCH

Having outgrown their former church and with much planning, hard work and fundraising, church members in Ronan were excited to welcome about 160 members and guests to the grand opening of the new Glacier View Church on March 24. This beautiful facility, an extension of the Glacier View School, will allow this congregation to better serve its community.

Phillip Newhart, Glacier View Church pastor, gave a brief history of the Ronan Church, which was dedicated in 1967 and has served Lake County for 50 years.

Earlene Lovinger (1915–2004) received a special

tribute as her generous gift to the church was a substantial help in the building of the new church.

Retired pastor Bill Smith and Montana Conference vice president Matthew Kirk gave the prayers of dedication. Kirk was also the speaker for the Sabbath sermon.

Following the church service, a lunch was served to those who attended to round out this high Sabbath in Ronan.

Billee Collins, Glacier View Church communication leader



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SCHWINGHAMMER ACCEPTS OREGON CONFERENCE VP INVITATION

David Schwinghammer accepted an invitation Thursday, April 26, to become the next vice president for administration for the Oregon Conference. His invitation came after a joint meeting of the conference nominating and executive committees. He will replace Dave Allen, who retires July 1.

Schwinghammer has been serving in the Ontario Conference in Canada since 2016 as vice president for administration. Before that, he served in the Ontario Conference as a pastor, then as stewardship director. He brings a wealth of experience in church administration and leadership to his new role. He holds degrees from Burman University in Canada, the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Michigan and Fuller Theological Seminary in California.

“It was a blessing to see God’s presence active in the Nominating Committee meeting, clearly guiding the whole process in the selection of David Schwinghammer as the next [vice president] for administration and executive secretary for the Oregon Conference,” says Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president. “Pastor Dave will bring experience and dynamic

leadership skills. His passionate spirituality also exemplifies our Oregon Conference mission of knowing, loving and serving Jesus and others and sharing Jesus with others. He is both an inspiring preacher and gifted musician who effectively leads others closer to Jesus. Further, he has high interpersonal aptitude and a strong business sense.”

As Linrud explains, Schwinghammer’s skillset provides for a unique opportunity in church administration. “It is crucial that we be proactive with the

coming wave of leadership retirements across the North American Division,” says Linrud. “A key dimension of this position will be to help coordinate a new initiative of identifying, training and equipping persons who may be future conference leaders. This will be in addition to the traditional role of VP for administration [such as] performing administrative functions, serving committees and boards, and relating to personnel. Pastor Dave is well-equipped to help with this, as he has been active as a visiting

seminary instructor.”

“I am thankful for the way in which the Lord has led in the past 22 years of ministry in the Adventist Church,” says Schwinghammer. “It has been a joy to serve along with others who have a passion for Jesus and see firsthand how God unfolds His vision for their lives. I’m honored for the opportunity to join the Oregon Conference family and am looking forward to seeing what God will do among us.”

Schwinghammer and his wife, Ingrid, have two children. Their daughter, Albany, attends Andrews University, while their son, Justin, is an academy student. Ingrid has served at Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada for more than 13 years.

“As Pastor Dave joins the Oregon Conference, I am confident that God has marvelous things in store for this leadership team going forward,” adds Linrud. “We are very pleased to welcome Dave, Ingrid, Albany and Justin Schwinghammer to our Oregon Conference administrative family.”

Schwinghammer is planning to begin serving the Oregon Conference July 1, and his family will follow.

David Schwinghammer has accepted an invitation to become Oregon Conference vice president for administration when Dave Allen retires in July.



Jonathan Russell, Oregon Conference assistant to the president for multimedia communications

GARDENING WORKSHOP PROVES A BIG SUCCESS

More online at glnr.in/113-05-or_garden



The North Valley Church garden in Merlin, Ore., was bursting April 8–10 with gardeners ready to learn and absorb special gardening techniques from master gardener Lynn Hoag from Sun Country Gardens in Placerville, Calif.

An overwhelming interest in organic gardening was evident when 163 people registered for this three-day seminar and came from as far north as Roseburg and Canyonville and as far south as Ashland. Hoag was like a

walking encyclopedia able to explain and answer most of the questions presented to him and always in a kind and humble manner.

Hoag did an exceptional job of involving everyone, using the children to help plant seeds and the young and middle-aged men to dig 3-foot-deep holes for the fruit trees. He illustrated how much faster the growth and greater the yields are when planted using the Ellen G. White method for both trees and vegetables.

Participants learned the

key to successful gardening is the correct preparation of the soil and how to use various types of greenhouses for a year-round garden.

The seminar was co-sponsored by the Grants Pass and North Valley churches for their community. Volunteers worked together to create a remarkable event, which also included a delicious lunch.

If you missed this very informative class, you can view and order Lynn Hoag's materials on his website, suncountrygardens.com.



Master gardener Lynn Hoag presented a three-day seminar on organic gardening.

Grants Pass members hope to book Hoag again in 2019.

Marcella Lynch, Grants Pass Church member

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PAA MENTORSHIP CLUB PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY

Maria Bibb, Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) international student program director, knows her students learn English best when they interact with American students in casual and fun ways. That's why she established an international student mentorship club. This year, the club is building friendships between 35 international students and 50 American students.

Brianna Mansfield, a PAA senior, has been mentoring international students for seven years — her first three at Portland Adventist Elementary School. "I love getting to know international students," she says. "I like making new friends and helping them out."

Students meet regularly in Bibb's classroom to play board games, eat lunch or help each other with homework. On special occasions, they explore popular destinations around Portland, visit museums, go hiking or bake cookies together in the cafeteria. A favorite for both American and international students is their monthly trip to the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) where they volunteer to care for cats and dogs.

"When I first came here, I had never touched a dog before," says Tai Someya, a

Japanese international student at PAA. "In Tokyo, no one has pets. ... I am enjoying this very much."



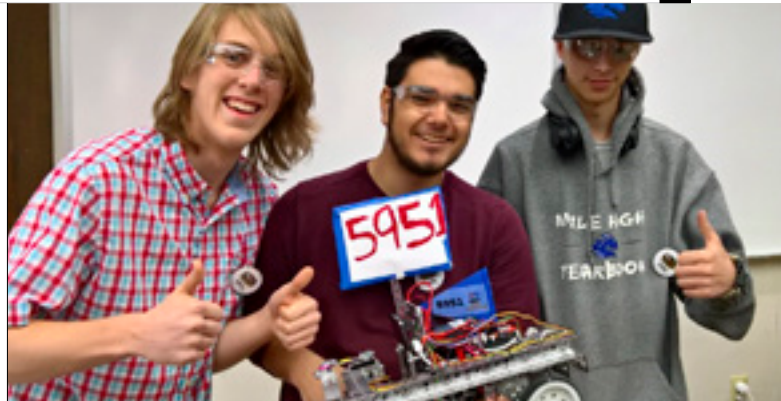
Maria Bibb, PAA's international student program director, loves bringing her students to the Oregon Humane Society because many of them have never been up close to animals.

Opportunity is the purpose of the mentorship club. Volunteering at OHS provides unforgettable moments for international students while helping them build confidence in their English-speaking skills. American students also find opportunity. "Not only do you get to know new people," says Mansfield, "but you also get to learn so much more about their culture."

Liesl Vistauuet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

+ More online at glnr.in/113-05-or_paa

Students in the mentorship club meet regularly in Bibb's classroom to play board games, eat lunch or help each other with homework.



Some of the Milo team pose with a neighborly designer who helped design a manipulator arm for Milo's robot.

MILO ROBOTICS TEAM ATTENDS TOURNAMENT

The Milo Adventist Academy robotics team traveled from Days Creek to Sacramento, Calif., for a First Tech Challenge (FTC) tournament April 12 and 13. The FTC tournament was hosted by the Sacramento Adventist Academy (SAA) robotics team.

The FTC is a worldwide robotics high school competition to complete assigned tasks with robots. The FTC organization stresses "gracious professionalism," which was on full display at this year's tournament.

The Milo team arrived early Thursday afternoon with a built robot, but not all the communication and programming was working. From the moment the team arrived, other teams and technical experts assisted them.

Among others, a design engineer from a competing team helped the Milo team design and build a manipulator arm. Another technical expert helped the team with programming. By 9 p.m. they had a functioning, elegant robot

capable of completing most of the assigned tasks.

Incredibly, the Milo team finished the first five rounds in third place and was chosen to ally with the first-place team for the elimination rounds and the finals. In each match, four teams competed in two alliances. The SAA-Milo alliance made it through to the finals, in which they won the next two matches to claim victory.

The Milo team also won an award for engineering showing simplicity and functionality — the blessings of not having enough time to make it complicated. While the Milo team performed very well, members agreed they could not have accomplished as much without the help from other teams, technical experts and an enthusiastic, uplifting environment.

Scott Harwood, Milo robotics team coach

+ More online at glnr.in/113-05-or_milo

BELOVED CAA ICON RESTS

A beloved teacher passed away Feb. 27, after a second bout with cancer. During the 30-plus years Reavis Belin taught at Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) in Battle Ground, Wash., he became the icon of all the good teachers at the school.

Belin first came to CAA from College View Academy in Lincoln, Neb., in 1979 as the industrial education teacher. One of the things he did to hook students' interest was build sand rails. Belin loved to use his homemade buggies to get kids interested in many things, and trips to the dunes were just one of them.

As the student association (SA) did a Fall Fest fundraiser

every year, Belin turned his buggy into a money-making machine as students and community members bought tickets for buggy rides. Belin used the land features of the Northwest — mud, rain and puddles of standing water — to make the ride an exciting experience.

Camping was another of Belin's favorites, and he would plan the boys' club campouts, alternating between the coast — often to Fort Stevens in northwest Oregon — and the mountains.

Belin was also a musician. He sometimes helped with the praise music by playing his electronic bass, and, yes, he had made it himself in the shop.

In whatever he did, Belin

lived to bless the lives of others. That might include shifting much of his teaching load over the years from industrial education to math classes, working late to tutor students needing help. He could be found anonymously helping to fund the tuition for students, driving the coach for biology trips and various other events, or playing Santa for the underprivileged kids in the annual Headstart program that the SA sponsored.

He continued his support for CAA as well as the Santa tradition even after retiring in 2011, and the sparkle in the kids' eyes always matched the sparkle in his and spoke volumes about the love he had for people whether they were

toddlers, maturing adults or colleagues.

CAA students' words sum Belin up well:

"He was the heart and soul of Columbia Academy. Always kind. Always gentle. How someone can manage a classroom full of teenagers and power tools, yet keep his composure, I'll never know. But Mr. Belin did it. I learned a lot from him."

"To my surprise and joy he showed up at my wife's funeral and honored her even though he didn't know her."

"Mr. Belin was a bright light for how humans should live."

"From his booming 'whoa' to his gentle smile, Mr. Belin was a caring inspiration to each of his students."

"Woodworking, welding, auto mechanics, drafting, fabricating, silk screening, driver's ed, ELS, biology, algebra and geometry — these are the subjects you taught us. Patience, humility, caring and loving are what you were to us."

Until that anxiously awaited resurrection day, a God-fearing, gentle, spiritual giant and mentor sleeps, and only in heaven will the full impact of his life on others be known.

Larry Hiday, CAA Gleaner correspondent

Reavis Belin



Read more online at glnr.in/113-05-or_caa

UCA STEPS BACK TO THE FUTURE WITH AGRICULTURE

What is green on the inside, metal on the outside and high-tech all over? Why, a container full of microgreens, of course!

The era of farms at Adventist schools was thought to be long past, but in this day of modern agriculture Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash., is taking a bold step back into this exciting and growing field with an all-new agriculture program.

Two donors who have long believed in the power and importance of students working in the soil gave \$100,000 each toward the development of the program, intending for modern agriculture to be incorporated into the curriculum. Alumnus Peter Vercio ('03), who is part of a company that sets up farms and agriculture systems like that envisioned for UCA, stepped in to set up the operation. And UCA staff will be operating the agriculture program and integrating it into the curriculum.

Vercio was headed toward law school when he took a detour. After working in various industries, he soon realized his work wasn't making the difference he wanted it to.

At the same time, he began to recognize the gift of health he had been given by growing up Adventist. His



"Dutch buckets" are one medium that will be used in the greenhouse.

desire to be purposeful and make an impact with his time and talents combined with his emerging interest in healthy foods converged as he relocated to Colorado and started Sirona Life, a vertical farming service.

At UCA, Vercio will be combining his expertise in business, his desire to make an impact with his work, his passion for giving students an edge by providing healthier food options and taking an active role in the growing process, and his love for his alma matter to kick off a state-of-the-art agriculture program. Vercio plans to develop the greenhouse and put multiple kinds of growing apparatus, including hydroponic gardening equipment, inside.

He will also set up a container "farm," which will mostly be used to grow microgreens — an up-and-coming food product. "There are huge amounts of money flowing into the agriculture technology field right now," says Vercio. "We

can give UCA students the tools for big job possibilities for the future."

UCA staff Ted McConachie will transition from the maintenance department to farm manager this summer as he develops the program. He will be responsible for overseeing student labor as well as marketing the agriculture program's harvest. He is excited about the future. "This will be a fantastic place for kids to learn a completely new way of growing food," he says.

In conjunction with Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., UCA will offer a related dual-credit class, "21st-Century Agriculture." Additionally, all teachers will be encouraged to integrate the agriculture program into their curriculum.

Judy Castrejon, biology teacher, is excited about the integration possibilities, and chemistry teacher Charles Hartman is already dreaming of having his students conduct soil analyzation experiments.

The agriculture program is just one more reason Upper Columbia Academy is "a place to grow." Visit ucaaa.org to learn more.

Shelley Bacon, Upper Columbia Academy communication director

More online at glnr.in/113-05-uc_uca

A container of microgreens produces similarly to 2/3 of an acre of land.



MEMBERS JOIN TOGETHER FOR UCC CAMP MEETING

We want to extend a special invitation to you to join us at Upper Columbia Academy for our annual Upper Columbia Conference camp meeting, June 20–23, 2018.

As we gather together this year, we'll be focusing on Jesus and the bond we share in Him. It will be a time to share and learn as the family of God.

We've been planning all year to bring you enriching seminars, uplifting speakers and encouraging music. It's our prayer you will be spiritually fed at this important yearly gathering for Upper Columbia Conference.

Make plans to come and experience an old-fashioned



The UCC camp meeting is held on the campus of Upper Columbia Academy.

camp meeting complete with a giant meeting tent set among the beautiful Palouse wheat fields. Bring the whole family for an unforgettable camp meeting experience.

On Thursday and Friday you'll have an opportunity to

choose from many great seminar options in the mornings and afternoons.

Our keynote speakers for camp meeting this year are John McVay, John Freedman, Teddy Shupe and Minner Labrador, the new Upper Colum-

bia Conference president.

In addition to the inspiration and fellowship, you will be blessed with beautiful gospel music as well. This year we're excited to bring Jennifer LaMountain from Hope Channel and 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) to share with us on Friday and Sabbath. We also have a music concert every evening before the main meeting starting at 6:30 p.m.

Don't forget this is an event for your entire family. We have programs for beginners through youth happening every day. Whether you're 9 or 109, this camp meeting will be sure to encourage and equip you to look to Jesus and share His love.

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



UCC CAMP MEETING SPEAKERS



A. JOHN FREEDMAN

John Freedman serves as the president of the North Pacific Union Conference. Before serving at the union, Freedman served as president of the Washington Conference, headquartered in Federal Way, Wash., since 2002.

Prior to that, he spent three years as the conference ministerial and evangelism director and another year as vice president for administration. His extensive experience as a pastor includes churches in New Jersey, Colorado and California.

B. JOHN MCVAY

John McVay has served as president of Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash., for 10 years. Earlier, he served as professor of New Testament, associate dean and dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., from 1998 to 2006.

He also taught at Pacific Union College (PUC) in Angwin, Calif., was senior pastor of the PUC Church, and pastored in Iowa and Georgia.

His family includes his wife, Pam, and children, Marshall and Macy, both graduates of WWU who serve as pastors.


C. TEDDY SHUPE

Teddy Shupe attended Walla Walla College from 1985 to 1989 and Andrews University from 1991 to 1993.

He serves as the senior pastor at the Spokane Valley Church. Prior to coming to Spokane, Wash., in 2015, he has pastored at Pasco River-view Church, Country Haven Academy and Spokane Central Church, all also in Washington.

Shupe's passion is helping people learn and trust Jesus as their personal friend and placing Jesus at the center of their life.

Shupe is married to Darla Dahl Shupe. Together they have four children. The family enjoys the great outdoors and loves camping. Shupe also enjoys golfing and dirt bike riding.

 Camp Meeting website
uccsda.org/campmeeting



Upper Columbia Conference

Together in
CHRIST

Camp Meeting

June 20-23, 2018

WWVA STUDENTS MENTOR THROUGH FRIENDS PROGRAM

The friends program is awesome,” says Nate Treadway, a senior at Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) in College Place, Wash. “I get to spend time with my buddy, and he always looks forward to it. It’s made me a kinder person to all my fellow classmates and friends.”

Treadway is not alone. Many upper-division WWVA students are volunteering in the Friends ABC Program in the Walla Walla Valley of southeast Washington.

The Friends ABC Program is a school-based mentoring program serving high-need schools in Walla Walla and College Place. Volunteers are rigorously screened and trained and are matched with kids who have similar interests and hobbies. Then the older kids visit once a week with a young friend, with all visits occurring on school grounds during lunch period.

Whether the time is spent playing tag or coloring togeth-

er, the half-hour visits provide a consistent time and space the younger child can count on. This one-on-one time is a precious gift for children who are often lacking positive adult role models. Both parents and teachers find that children who participate in the Friends ABC Program are more likely to be successful academically and socially.

“It’s a great fit for what we are trying to instill in our students at WWVA” says Brian Harris, WWVA principal. “By serving those around us we get outside of ourselves and become God’s hands and feet. Yes, the kids who are mentored by our students get a benefit — but our students receive a huge blessing in the process.”

Elaine Blake Hinshaw, WWVA marketing and recruitment director

 Read more online at glnr.in/113-05-uc_wwva



Natashia McVay, Moscow Church associate pastor, put together the agape feast and program.

MOSCOW BRINGS LAST SUPPER TO NEW LIFE

Moscow (Idaho) Church recently celebrated Christ’s example of love in action. Natashia McVay, Moscow Church associate pastor, coordinated an amazing agape feast with fresh and dried fruit and nuts, challah bread, hummus, and soup brought by members.

Each table was richly decorated with reminders of Christ’s crucifixion: thorn crowns, spike nails, clay jars and Mediterranean-themed decorations. One church member had even made a life-size cross.

Marshall McVay, Moscow Church senior pastor, shared with the group the meaning and details of the last supper Jesus ate with His disciples. Jered Kostenko played hymns as Melanie Thong led the group in singing of “The Old Rugged Cross” and other great reminders of this special event. Members then separated

to share in the wonderful gift of foot washing. This was a special time for sharing this humbling reminder of Christ’s selfless act. Families took part, the college students that worship with the Moscow and Pullman (Wash.) churches took part, and young and old had a “hands-on” lesson and vivid portrayal of this special time we are all to share with each other.

As the group reconvened Marshall McVay shared the sacred descriptions of Christ’s breaking the bread and sharing of the juice. These emblems were prepared in a slightly larger-than-typical communion size, and the bread was baked in the shape of a heart — to remind us of Christ’s body and blood.

Karri Walde, Moscow Church member

 More online at glnr.in/113-05-uc_moscow



BIG PICTURE OF MINISTRY



#URBANSDA

Western Washington leaders explored and learned about the different ways a ministry can work within their community to serve the people around them at the Urban Ministry Conference. “With urban ministry, we don’t have to change what we believe,” says Derek Lane. “We need to minister to where people hurt most.”



KEN AIOLUPOTEA, NEW HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

Washington Conference welcomes a new human resources director, Ken Aiolupotea, to the ministry family.



A DESSERT THEATRICAL APPROACH TO RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

Bremerton Church developed a unique and creative evangelism series that guided participants through a narrative dessert theater of the cosmic conflict, hosting between 45 and 55 people each Friday and Saturday night for four weeks. Read more at bit.ly/DessertTheatricalEvangelism.

STUDENTS LEARN THE MEANING OF SERVICE

It was early morning when 20 high school students from Skagit Adventist Academy (SAA) in Burlington and their sponsors met in the school parking lot on March 2. They loaded the bus for Sea-Tac Airport, where they embarked on an adventure to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Once in Puerto Rico, students and sponsors crammed into a bus with their suitcases and set out for Campamento Adventista Elias Burgos, an Adventist summer camp near Utuado, arriving about 3 a.m. local time.

While at the camp, students worked on many projects to improve the local Adventist church and help community members affected by Hurricane Maria. The first project group painted, poured concrete, created storage areas and cleared hurricane debris.

Smaller groups worked on picking up hurricane trash and debris around the camp, pouring new walls for a community member who lost his house, and painting two houses built by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

“The people of Puerto Rico were dealt a bad hand, but they pushed through it,” says J.T. Slockbower, SAA senior. “They are some of the happiest people I have met.”

Probably the most memorable project involved Marguerite. Margie, as her friends call her, lost everything during the hurricane. She and two granddaughters were left with four walls but no roof, proper flooring or supplies. Without a roof on their home, the hurricane had taken everything.

SAA students and parents installed a new roof, poured cement flooring, and painted the inside and outside of Mar-

gie’s house. Seeing the great need, a collection was taken that allowed SAA students and sponsors to donate money for shelves, bedding, kitchen supplies, table, chairs and a futon to furnish the “new” home.

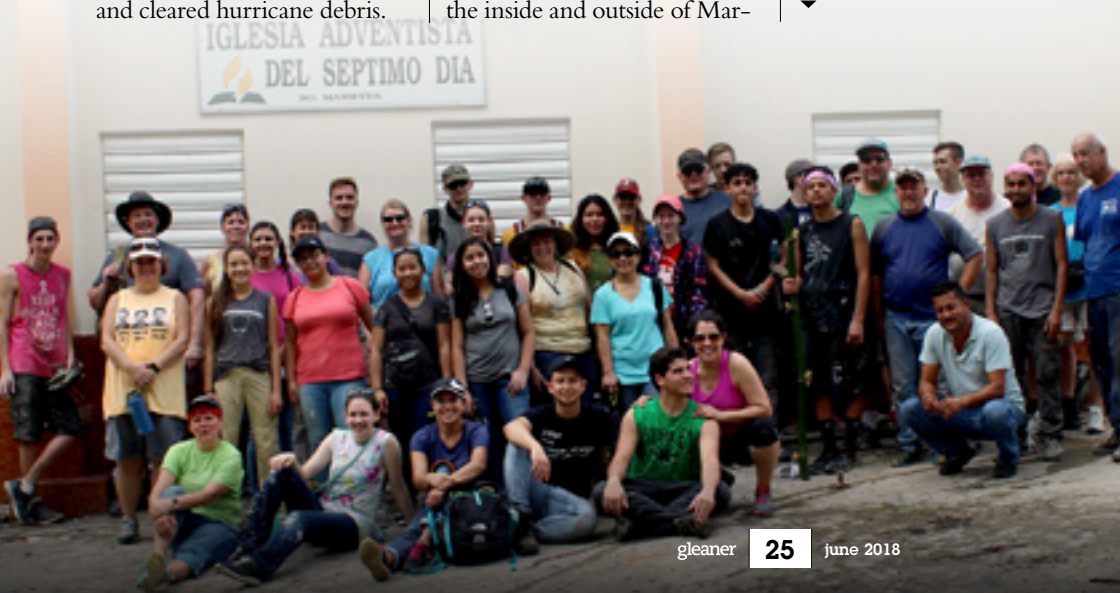
SAA’s seniors had a lot to share about their final high school mission trip.

“It was moving to see such generosity from people who had so little to give,” says Kallan Richards, SAA senior.

“Seeing firsthand what they went through ... they gave us more than we could give them,” SAA students continue to report.

Rachel Mountain, Skagit Adventist Academy teacher

SAA sponsors and students take a mission trip to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.



AMEN EVERETT BUILDS PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY

It was 8 p.m., Thursday night, on April 19, outside the Angel of the Winds Arena in Everett when the first woman camped out the night before the AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) Everett medical clinic opened its doors. By midnight, two people had joined her in waiting to receive free medical, dental and vision services. And then even more people showed up.

Paula Beatty, local clinic director for AMEN Everett, received many calls before the weekend of the clinic from residents asking, “Is this really

a free medical service?” And she would reply with a hearty, “Yes!”

During the two-day clinic, about 800 volunteers served almost 1,000 underinsured and uninsured Snohomish County and King County residents with free medical, dental and vision services in addition to haircuts, counseling and prayer.

“I waited two hours and was the first dental patient of the day,” says Maddy, an 18-year-old whose aunt heard about the clinic on Facebook. “Got right in without extra waiting. It feels so good to have clean teeth.”

Barbers and hair stylists provide 75 Snohomish County and King County residents with free haircuts.



KATIE HENDERSON



KATIE HENDERSON

The dental team is hard at work at the AMEN Everett medical clinic.

Through one-on-one interactions with volunteers, patients expressed their gratitude of the free services offered and were in awe at the kindness and compassion of the volunteers at the AMEN clinic.

“What I feel like I can do the most is educate them,” says Jonathan Fish, medical lifestyle volunteer. “If I can make a difference in a man’s life by sitting and talking with him for 45 minutes ... so be it.”

Along with the opportunity to serve the community, AMEN Everett student volunteers had the opportunity to gain clinical experience and gain confidence in working alongside professionals from their chosen field.

“The business community has provided for the equipment that the clinic needed through acts of generosity,” says Beatty. “People fell in place to make this clinic happen. All these amazing people came when they needed to.”

Kami Borg, an Adventist volunteer from Forest Park Church in Everett, learned about the severe housing shortage in her community, for example, as she listened to a life story of one woman, living with her family of five month to month in a hotel, who could not qualify for housing.

“Along with 700-plus volunteers I was blessed to be part of the AMEN free medical clinic in Everett,” says Borg. “It was a transformative experience, and, while I struggle to describe its deep impact, I will say that I felt the presence of God as never before. I am humbled and grateful. And I am changed.”

Katie Henderson, Washington Conference communication intern

More photos online at glnr.in/113-05-wa_amen

WESTERN WASHINGTON STUDENTS LEARN LIFE SKILLS

More than 100 fifth- and sixth-grade students from Northwest Christian School (NWS) in Puyallup, Buena Vista Seventh-day Adventist School (BVSDA) in Auburn, Orcas Christian School and Olympia Christian School filled Auburn Biztown as they bustled from business-to-business, working together to collect checks, market their businesses and learn skills essential in the real world. This small town built by Junior Achievement (JA) is a way for students to learn about the American enterprise system.

Harold Richards, a BVSDA teacher, heard through his wife about the JA program and its many successful learning encounters. He began the process this year of reaching out to other schools that would like the opportunity to join him in an educational experience.

When the day arrived to put their financial skills to the test, students put their kid-size business suits on and took up their given job for the day. They became elected officials, CEOs,

Western Washington students learn life skills during Junior Achievement BizTown.



KATIE HENDERSON

More than 100 western Washington students from five Adventist schools learn life skills at Junior Achievement BizTown.

CFOs, attorneys, news anchors, business marketers and more. Like real life, students received a real check of how much they made for the day, including deductions for taxes and fees.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for the students,” says Stacy Kemmerer, Orcas Christian School teacher. “The skills they learned are lifelong lessons, and it’s amazing what the students do during the Junior Achievement program.”

“As a parent, I value that my child has the opportunity to learn about balancing a checkbook and working as a team,” says Amber Nelson, BVSDA teacher and parent. “It’s nice that students get to experience with different professions too.

Katie Henderson, Washington Conference communication intern



CHERI FLETCHER

A student leader interacts with the Buena Vista seventh- and eighth-grade boys.

STUDENTS LEVEL-UP THROUGH SPIRITUAL GAME PLANNING

Twelve years ago, as Cheri Fletcher watched her husband coach their daughter’s elementary basketball team, she observed the team run plays over and over. Knowing that their daughter would soon be in high school she thought to herself, “I wish we could send them off with a spiritual playbook.”

Knowing that instruction from Mom would just be another lecture, Fletcher decided to see if any upperclassmen from Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) would be interested in mentoring. With the support of both AAA and nearby Buena Vista Seventh-day Adventist School, the annual “spiritual game planning” week of prayer became a highlight of the school year for both campuses.

Spiritual game planning is an intentional discipling program with a specific scope and sequence to help academy students experience God using them to make an impact in the lives of those who are younger and who look up to them.

“Preparing our middle school students gives them strength for the challenges they will face in high school and gives them the tools to recognize the opponent and have a plan ahead of time,” says Fletcher.

The tools student mentors prepare to teach turn into a solid belief, becoming a part of the foundation that students will continue to build on.

Fletcher is in the process of creating and publishing a curriculum from 12 years of notes on the mentoring program. To learn more about this curriculum, visit cherifletcher.com/game-plan.

Cheri Fletcher, mentoring program founder, with Katie Henderson

More photos online at glnr.in/113-05-wa_mentor



KATIE HENDERSON

More photos online at glnr.in/113-05-wa_biztown

CHEHALIS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY



Churches often celebrate special milestones in their history.

Chehalis Church

just reached a monumental milestone: its 100th anniversary of ministry.

The centennial celebration in April welcomed back three generations of Chehalis pastors and witnessed pews full of former and current members.

The church was founded on May 25, 1918, in a little white building built on land donated from an Adventist member, Fred Scheuber.

“Edith Joy, first member of the Chehalis Church, was our neighbor on Twin Oaks Road,” remembers Claude Sterling, from Chehalis. “She sent my folks the *Signs* [*Signs of the Times* magazine]. My

mother, being a solid Methodist, promptly put the *Signs* in the cookstove.”

When Sterling’s sister Betty died, his mother was distraught when the preacher at the funeral told them Betty was looking down from heaven on them.

“One day, the *Signs* came, and my mother started to put it in the stove, and she heard an audible voice that told her, ‘Stop, open it,’” continues Sterling.

“What and where are the dead?” was boldly phrased on the cover of the *Signs* that day, and it was the icebreaker God needed to open the door to an evangelistic series at the church.

After the congregation outgrew the first church building, the church sold the property in 1946 to make



KATIE HENDERSON

David Glenn, former Chehalis Church pastor, shares his passion of music during the 100-year church celebration.

more room. During this time of moving and expanding, a building ban was enacted due to post-war supply shortages in building materials. Their application was approved in 1947, and in 1948 they finished building. Their first service was held Sept. 11, 1948.

It was 40 years later when Chehalis leaders felt God prompting them to buy property on Chilvers Road in January 1984. Ten years after that, God opened the door for the congregation to begin building a new sanctuary on May 23, 1994.

In the midst of construction, a fire burned down the unfinished facility. The church rebuilt their sanctuary and hosted its first Sabbath service in the newly completed church on April 6, 1996. The congregation continues to meet and share

ministry experiences — such as community concerts, health lectures, children’s programs and more — at this location.

During an interactive feature at the 100 years’ celebration, Cliff Petersen and Truman Johnson were the longest-standing church members, having been associated with the church for more than 80 years. Petersen and Johnson were able to reminisce together about the early years.

“It’s humbling to be with a church that’s still growing strong 100 years later,” says John Mutchler, Chehalis Church pastor.

Katie Henderson, *Washington Conference communication intern*

More photos online at glnr.in/113-05-wa_chehalis



Cliff Petersen (far left) and Truman Johnson (second left) were the longest-standing Chehalis Church members at the 100-year celebration.



KATIE HENDERSON

WWU ATHLETES EXERCISE MENTAL, PHYSICAL ABILITIES

MEN'S GOLF TEAM PLACES THIRD IN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Walla Walla University men's golf team placed third in the Cascade Collegiate Conference Championship tournament at Pronghorn Resort in Bend, Ore., April 23–24.

The Wolves were in fifth place at the end of the first day of play on Pronghorn's Jack Nicklaus Signature Course. In the final round, seniors Brendan Collins and Cole Henderson each put up scores of 78 to help move the Wolves into third place.

"We talked about focusing on one shot at a time, one hole at a time, and having a short memory after a bad swing or bad hole," says Rodd Strobel, WWU assistant professor of physical education and golf coach. "It was a very challenging course. There was only one red number [score under par] for the tournament."

"I told them to always do their best no matter how their round was going because you never know how the other teams are playing," continues Strobel. That approach would prove key to the team's success in the third round. The Wolves were one of only two teams to improve scores between the second and third rounds and the only team to improve in each round of the tournament.

Cole Henderson, a senior, says the key to the final round for him was his mental



On the course for the championship tournament were (from left) Aubrey Fautheree, Brendan Collins, Kevin Cummings, Jarrett Johnson and Cole Henderson.

approach. "Especially with this course, everyone had to grind through the big numbers. Being able to avoid those big numbers or being able to mentally check back in after those big numbers was huge," he explains.

"I have never been more proud of these guys," says Strobel, "not because of the third place, which is a really big deal for us, but because of the way they stayed focused and resilient on a very difficult course."

WWU ADDS MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY TEAMS

WWU will add men's and women's cross-country teams for the 2018–19

athletics season, joining 10 other colleges and universities with cross-country teams in the Cascade Collegiate Conference.

"Cross-country is a natural fit for our athletics program when you consider the mission of Walla Walla University and the long history of Seventh-day Adventists of focusing on health and wellness," says Paul Starkebaum, WWU interim athletic director. "We are excited about the opportunities that adding a cross-country team will bring."

MISSION-CENTERED ATHLETICS

The athletics program at WWU provides the opportunity for student athletes to

develop and exercise their athletic abilities, learn leadership skills, build lasting relationships, and grow spiritually. Maintaining a mission-centered program, the WWU athletics program promotes a healthy, balanced life — body, mind and soul — for their athletes through sport. Athletic opportunities include men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross-country, men's and women's golf, men's soccer, and women's volleyball. Learn more at uwolves.com.

Kim Strobel, WWU university relations supervisor

ADVENTIST HEALTH PORTLAND INSPIRES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

High school students in Portland, Ore., are getting a firsthand look

at health care careers thanks to the innovative Student Healthcare Leaders program developed by Terry Johnsson, Adventist Health's Pacific Northwest Region executive director of mission integration, and funded by the Adventist Health Portland Foundation.

The program's first 10 students began their health care journey in February 2018. They meet weekly to learn about a specific department of Adventist Health Portland.

Representatives from different departments talk with the students and answer their questions. Then the group moves to that department to experience how it works.

Students explored surgery, information technology, food services, administration and a host of direct patient care areas. "It has made me consider more fields that I didn't previously know existed in the health care world," says Ben Kruger-Blehm, a Portland Adventist Academy junior.

Johnsson is aided in his mission by Cheri Hill, an administrative assistant with a passion for youth, and Emilie Butler, Walla Walla University assistant professor of nursing,

who mentors student nurses in the Portland area.

BREAKING INTO THE FIELD

"I recently read that 78 percent of health care workers had someone in their family who worked in health care," Johnsson explains. "Unless these young people get this exposure, they'll never know they can be in health care."

His inspiration comes from his own experience as a teen. A chaplain made a difference when Johnsson's father passed away when he was 9 years old. So, when Johnsson was in high school and assigned to shadow someone in a career that interested him,

he walked into the hospital chaplaincy office.

There were no spots available.

Deflated, Johnson returned to the waiting area of the chaplains' office, where Beulah Stevens was the office secretary — because in that era women couldn't serve as chaplains.

Stevens eyed the teenager. "Will you be here every day?" she asked Johnsson. "Will you write a report for me?"

Johnsson agreed. And so began a week that would change Johnsson's life. "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't work in health care," Stevens said.

Wes Rippey, an Adventist Health Portland surgeon, looks on as Mikaela Jones, Portland Adventist Academy sophomore, takes a closer look at how the da Vinci Surgical System works.



PASSING ALONG THE OPPORTUNITY

Johnsson hasn't forgotten the help he received, and he wants that same opportunity for other teens. "If I don't use my position as an opportunity to give back to my community, my being here is in vain," says Johnsson.

Adventist Health Portland plans to host two groups each year comprised of a variety of students. Johnsson meets with school counselors to help pick the right kids. "Who has potential?" Johnsson asks them. "Do you see something in this kid?"

A LEGACY OF LEARNING

Johnsson recently visited Stevens in her memory care facility. She looked at him carefully and said, "I did something special for you."

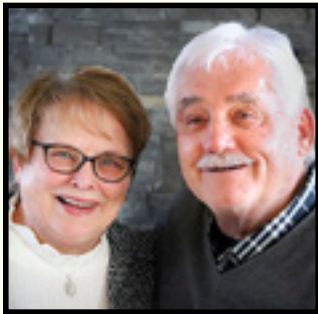
She did, and now Johnsson is sharing her special legacy through Student Healthcare Leaders, which he would like to expand beyond Portland.

The program will start taking applications in June 2018 for the next cohort, which begins this fall. Watch studenthealthcareleaders.com for application information.

Laurel Rogers, Adventist Health contract writer

Altman 60th

Mike and Carol Altman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Feb. 10, 2018, with a family gathering, followed by a much-delayed honeymoon to a local resort provided by their family to mark this event.



Carol and Mike Altman

Mike and Carol met at the Gladstone (Ore.) Camp Meeting in 1957 and married just one year later in Vancouver, Wash., in a private ceremony with the Adventist pastor. Hours later they were back at the bakery where they worked together.

They have remained in the Portland, Ore., area, where they raised their family. Mike is retired but continues painting churches, orphanages and homes while traveling the world on mission trips with both SAGE (Seniors in Action for God with Excellence) and Maranatha. Carol continues to work full time, providing rehabilitation services and support for those with traumatic brain injuries.

Both Mike and Carol will tell you that marriage and reaching this anniversary has not been an easy path. They attribute this achievement to a faith in something greater and bigger than themselves, as well as a slowly learned

understanding that wanting to be right most often prevents wanting to be connected.

Their five living children and their families include Scott Altman of Sacramento, Calif.; Cheryl Calderon of Vancouver, Wash.; Dedi Altman of both Beaverton and Burns, Ore.; Troy Altman of Beaverton, Ore.; Jason and Alisa Altman of Ridgefield, Wash.; 7 grandchildren, a step-grandchild and a great-grandchild. Additionally, they claim many others as relatives who have lived in their home or become part of their family such as grand-nephews, friends of their children and foster kids both formal and informal.

Custer 100th

Mabel Custer celebrated her 100th birthday on Nov. 29, 2017, in Roseburg, Ore. She celebrated with friends from the Roseburg and Longview, Wash., areas as well as with four other generations: her daughter, many nieces and nephews, her eight grandchildren, and many of her great- and great-grandchildren. She had a wonderful time visiting with all the family and friends who came.

Fearing 90th

Richard Fearing celebrated his 90th birthday on Dec. 9, 2017, with his family in Sedro Woolley, Wash. He celebrated again on Dec. 10 with his church family at North Cascades Church in Burlington, Wash., at a party hosted by his children Richard and Cindy Fearing of Gresham, Ore., Joy Krause of Loma Linda, Calif., George

and Maurina Fearing of Richland/Spokane, Wash., June and Monte Saxby of Mount Vernon, Wash., and Jane and Jonathan Fish of Sedro Woolley.

Richard was born on Dec. 9, 1927, in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. He spent most of his childhood in Columbus, Ohio. He graduated on a stretcher from Mount Vernon Academy in 1945 as the result of a vehicle accident. He graduated from Washington Missionary College, now Washington Adventist University, in 1950, and married Claoma Suhrie in 1951. Together the couple had six children, one who died in childbirth.

Richard served the Adventist Church for 40 years. He pastored churches in Fleetwood, Reading and Williamsport, Penn.; Hinsdale, Ill.; and Frederick, Md. He pastored the Walla Walla College Church 1963–69. He served as president of Mountain View Conference in Parkersburg, W.V., from 1969 to 1974, Upper Columbia Conference in Spokane, Wash., 1974–80 and North Pacific Union Conference in Portland, Ore., from 1980 to 1986.

Richard has suffered heartache in addition to the death of his young daughter. His wife, Claoma, died from cancer in 2000, and his second wife, Jeanne, died in 2006, also from cancer. Richard married Helen Rasmussen in 2007. Richard lives with Helen in Mount Vernon, Wash., where he enjoys reading, walking, staying active in church and spending time with his family.

In addition to his five

living children and their spouses, Richard's family includes three step-children, 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Konzack 75th

Clayton and Peggy Konzack celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary Sept. 17, 2017, with more than 100 guests in Roseburg, Ore., at a catered luncheon, hosted by their two daughters and grandchildren. Peggy's wedding dress, still in good condition, was on display at the reception.

Clayton was born in Texas on July 11, 1920, but moved to Missoula, Mont., at age 3. Peggy was born in California on June 5, 1921, and came with her family at age 2 to Butte, Mont.

They met at an Adventist youth camp in 1936. Six years later they renewed their acquaintance and were married Sept. 14, 1942, in Butte.

They moved to College Place, Wash., where Clayton graduated from Walla Walla College in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in theology and minor in education. He chose teaching as his career serving in the Adventist schools in Prineville, Bend and



Clayton and Peggy Konzack

FAMILY MILESTONES

Roseburg, Ore., followed by 20 years at Glide (Ore.) High School as a math teacher. After resigning from Glide High School, Clayton worked 20 years as a bookkeeper and part-time driver for Paulson Truck Line, specializing in moving oversized equipment.

Peggy graduated from beauty college in Butte and attended Walla Walla College. Being a homemaker was her desire, raising their adopted daughters.

Fifty years ago she started volunteering at YMCA teaching swim lessons and life guarding. Today she is teaching only her favorite baby class plus swimming 3/4 of a mile every week while Clayton works out on a machine in the cardio room.

Clayton retired in 1987, after which they traveled all 50 states and went on a couple overseas countries. Also they spent many happy miles snowmobiling, including six trips to Yellowstone National Park during the winter season — experiences never to be forgotten.

They have been members of Roseburg Church for 73 years, serving in various capacities during that time. Their first love was young people for many years.

God has blessed them with good health. Their family includes Carol Wayt of Walla Walla, Wash.; Sharon Stidham of Roseburg; 5 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Lowry 100th

Roscoe Lowry of Chehalis, Wash., recently turned 100 years old. He retired in Chehalis

in 1987 after working his entire career as a missionary for the Adventist Church in south Asia, headquartered in India.

He was born in 1918 in Bangalore, India, of missionary parents. Later, after graduating from college in the U.S., he returned to India at the age of 22 with his wife, Louise, and 6-month-old daughter, Lobeth.

Later three more children were added to the family: Lyvern, Carter and Priya.

For the first part of his career he worked mainly in the field of education both as teacher and principal and many years as educational secretary overseeing all levels of the many Adventist schools in southern Asia. He furthered his education during furloughs, receiving his master's degree in education and later a doctorate in education and philosophy.

He was an energetic, forward thinker and a skilled administrator who enjoyed his work with students and teachers alike. To this day, former students and even children of his students regard him with fondness and admiration.

The last half of his career he served as a vice president for the General Conference, serving as the Southern Asia Division president for 16 years. His travel stories through the years were both entertaining and hair-raising. He survived hardships, dangers and street food and had the satisfaction of assisting in bringing hope and new ways of dealing with life's challenges to the people he served.

After retiring in Chehalis, he attacked his new life with

the same gusto and enthusiasm he had while working in India. He remodeled the home he bought and enjoyed designing new landscaping and doing the yard work. He was faithful with a rigorous exercise program and took up snow skiing as a beginner in his 70s, taking lessons alongside students of nearby Lewis County Adventist School.

Roscoe and Louise enjoyed their motor home and the trips taken to the East Coast, southern states and Canada.

His 100th birthday was celebrated with a lot of fun and good food for about four days over the holidays. Of course, a good Indian feast was included. All four of his children and other family members were able to come from far and wide to celebrate their father, grandfather and great-grandfather "Papa" and a life well-lived. On Jan. 4, his actual birthday, a party was held at Chehalis West Assisted Living, where Roscoe resides.

Although his ability to get around is becoming more limited, he can be seen daily out in the halls in his wheelchair, but more and more time is spent parked in front of the fireplace soaking up the heat. His advice for aging gracefully: "Roll with the punches!"

Roscoe wishes he could do more these days but with his sense of humor and wit remarked recently, "I am gaining proficiency at sitting." He regularly and often expresses his gratitude for God's goodness, for his care at Chehalis West Assisted Living, and for his family and friends who visit him.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

WILSON-LINFOOT

Katie Wilson and Joshua Linfoot were married April 8, 2018, in Happy Valley, Ore. They are making their home in Portland, Ore. Katie is the daughter of Jeff and Loretta (Wade) Wilson and Lori (Parker) Wilson. Joshua is the son of Stuart and Shaun Linfoot and Becky (Holden) and Robert Harvey.

FAMILY BIRTHS

WATERBROOK —

Aierlynn Hope was born Jan. 16, 2018, to Johnny and Tiana (Schwartz) Waterbrook, Auburn, Wash.

FAMILY AT REST

APPLEGATE —

Avis Elaine (Gorton), 79; born Jan. 4, 1938, Brainerd, Minn.; died Nov. 27, 2017, Drummond, Mont. Surviving: sons, David H. Nicklaus, Omaha, Neb.; Brian E. Nicklaus, Vancouver, Wash.; Gregory R. Andren, Washougal, Wash.; daughters, Debra Gayle Andren, Billings, Mont.; Mary Walterine Durbine, of Texas; brothers, Gerald L. Gorton, Eugene, Ore.; and Keith A. Gorton, Springfield, Ore.

ARMSTRONG — Charles, 90; born Feb. 7, 1927, Deer Lodge, Mont.; died Dec. 11, 2017, Boise, Idaho.

ARMSTRONG — Minnie (Oliver), 90; born Sept. 3, 1927, Boise, Idaho; died Dec. 1, 2017, Boise. Surviving: husband, Charles; sister, Marvel Castle, Kuna, Idaho.

BENEDICT — Melvin E., 91;

born Sept. 12, 1926, Ahashka, Idaho; died Feb. 17, 2018, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Esther (Jones); sons, Marlin, Wrangell, Alaska; Kevin, Boise; Brian, Tehachapi, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BLUM — Merlene Annette (Stratton), 77; born Dec. 1, 1940, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Feb. 10, 2018, College Place, Wash. Surviving: husband, Robert; son, Wesley, Clancey, Mont.; daughters, Kama Wilson, Prineville, Ore.; Bonnie Wilkes, Kennewick, Wash.; and 12 grandchildren.

CRISP — John, 92; born May 28, 1925, Parma, Idaho; died Jan. 8, 2018, Sutherlin, Ore. Surviving: wife, Malinda (Schrenk); sons, Jerry, Bozeman, Mont.; Norman, Oakland, Ore.; daughters, Nancy Crisp Worley, Roseburg, Ore.; RuthAnn (Yarbrough) Crisp, Sutherlin; 4 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

DEXTER — Richard Ernest, 81; born May 7, 1936, Granite Falls, Wash.; died Dec. 27, 2017, Marysville, Wash. Surviving: wife, Sara Ann (Olson); son, Dennis, North Bend, Wash.; brothers, Donald Dexter, Custer, Wash.; Duane Dexter, Whitwell, Tenn.; Paul Davenport, Tacoma, Wash.; Timothy Davenport, Spokane, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

FLOYD — Wanda, 81; born Aug. 18, 1936, Culp Creek, Ore.; died Feb. 18, 2018, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: brother, Danny Floyd, Wilder, Idaho; sisters, Dorothy Hague, Roseburg, Ore.; Joyce Moore, Cottage Grove, Ore.; and

Linda Dean, Roseburg, Ore.

GOERTZ — Arline Mae (Richards), 102; born May 3, 1915, Ithica, Mich.; died Oct. 3, 2017, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: son, Richard, Nampa, Idaho; 10 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

GRANT — Carol Elizabeth (Peterson), 92; born July 2, 1925, Portland, Ore.; died Jan. 12, 2018, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: husband, Ben; son, Brad, Atwater, Calif.; daughters, Kathryn Wilson, Dallas, Ore.; Suzanne Dassenko, Eugene; 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

GREENE — Lois Lorraine (Watson), 86; born Oct. 4, 1931, Glendale, Calif.; died Dec. 14, 2017, Rogue River, Ore. Surviving: son, David Jr., Rogue River; and 3 grandchildren.

GRYTE — Lucille (Johnson), 90; born June 20, 1927, Hinsdale, Ill.; died Feb. 21, 2018, Portland, Ore. Surviving: sons, Ken, Albany, Ore.; Don, San Leandro, Calif.; Jim, Cottage Grove, Ore.; 4 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

HEICKSEN — Louise (Jones), 90; born April 5, 1927, Lexington, Neb.; died Dec. 22, 2017, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: husband, Joseph, Loon Lake, Wash.; son, Rudy, Santa, Idaho; daughter, Laurel Jones, Loon Lake; sisters, Kathleen McAteer, Spokane, Wash.; Irene Abbey, Huson, Mont.; Iladean Matthews, Spokane; 3 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

HERMAN — Helen Irene (Gould), 95; born Oct. 26,

1922, Sibley, Iowa; died Feb. 2, 2018, Olympia, Wash. Surviving: son, Jonathan, Keizer, Ore.; daughter, Diane Canfield, Shelton, Wash.; sister, Doris Berthiaume, Tacoma, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

JACKSON — Jack Houston, 83; born June 22, 1934, Miami, Okla.; died Sept. 6, 2017, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Yvonne (Gibbons), Prescott, Wash.; sons, C. Andy, Prescott; Robert M., Walla Walla; and 5 grandchildren.

JOHNSON — Lynette Kim, 53; born May 29, 1964, Portland, Ore.; died Jan. 4, 2018, Lebanon, Ore. Surviving: mother, Jean (Keightley) Johnson, Sweet Home, Ore.; brothers, Norman Johnson, Stayton, Ore.; Mark Johnson, of Idaho; sisters, Caroline Johnson, of Oregon; Diana Johnson, Sweet Home; and Brenda Slaw, Portland, Ore.

KONTZ — Vernita (Clarambeau), 74; born January 1944, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Jan. 11, 2018, College Place, Wash. Surviving: husband, Ed; son, Matthew, Cedar Falls, Iowa; daughter, Marlo Logan, Walla Walla; sister, Verlynn Clarambeau, College Place; and 2 grandchildren.

LANE — Adaline May (Young) Crooker, 97; born Oct. 9, 1920, Battle Lake, Alberta, Canada; died Feb. 12, 2018, Bellevue, Wash. Surviving: son, David Crooker, Redmond, Wash.; daughter, Cathy (Crooker) Craig, Kirkland, Wash.; stepsons, Marty Lane, Duvall, Wash.; Greg Lane, Seattle, Wash.; stepdaughter, Deborah (Lane) Maudlin, Covington, Wash.; 4 grandchildren, 5 step-

grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

LAUREN — Kenneth B., 71; born July 23, 1946, Seattle, Wash.; died Jan. 26, 2018, Seattle. Surviving: wife, Linda (Marriott), Snoqualmie, Wash.; son, Mark, Monroe, Wash.; daughter, Jen Bollinger, Snoqualmie; and 4 grandchildren.

LUDWIG — Michael “Mike” L., 70; born Nov. 24, 1946, Joplin, Mo.; died Sept. 25, 2017, Quincy, Wash. Surviving: wife, Jean (Baas) Ludwig, Monroe, Wash.; mother, Donna Marie Ludwig, Richfield, Minn.; and brother, Greg Ludwig, Bloomington, Minn.

MCKENZIE — Molly Johnson, 84; born Aug. 6, 1933, Tekoa, Wash.; died Feb. 21, 2018, Payette, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Don, New Plymouth, Idaho; stepdaughters, Brenda Schultz and Anna McKenzie, both of Nampa, Idaho; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

PAULSEN — Carol Ruby (Baartz), 82; born Feb. 13, 1935, Columbus, Wis.; died Jan. 6, 2018, Puyallup, Wash. Surviving: husband, Robert Paulsen, Auburn, Wash.; sons, Dean Paulsen, Orting, Wash.; Doug Paulsen, Puyallup; daughters, Dawn Heilbrun and Diane Meharry, both of Orting; brother, Don Baartz, Portland, Ore.; 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

PETER — Margaret Lydia (Kraft), 98; born April 17, 1919, Fant City, Texas; died Dec. 30, 2017, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: husband, Winton; sons, Gary, Walla Walla, Wash.; Jan, Hermiston; daughter, Cheryl Peter, Auckland, New Zealand; 2 grandchildren and 2

great-grandchildren.

PETER — Winton Hoyt, 96; born Nov. 19, 1921, Wasco, Calif.; died Jan. 5, 2018, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gary, Walla Walla, Wash.; Jan, Hermiston; daughter, Cheryl Peter, Aukland, New Zealand; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

PHILLIPS — Edith May (Gebhardt), 95; born May 31, 1922, Whites, Wash.; died Jan. 21, 2018, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Gail Lane, College Place, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

ROGERS — Donley “Don” LeRoy, 85; born Feb. 5, 1932, College Place, Wash.; died Jan. 13, 2018, College Place. Surviving: son, Gary Wayne Rogers, College Place; daughter, Sharline Lynette Bates, Loma Linda, Calif.; a grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

SIEMSEN — Doris A. (Donaldson), 91; born April 7, 1926, Loma Linda, Calif.; died Dec. 15, 2017, Sandpoint, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Donald, Tillamook, Ore.; David, Newport, Wash.; daughters, Debbie Letniak, Veteran, Alberta, Canada; Patti Schultz, Post Falls, Idaho; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

SMITH — Georgia Fern (Garvin), 96; born April 2, 1921, Nampa, Idaho; died Jan. 31, 2018, College Place, Wash. Surviving: son, Norman, Hemet, Calif.; daughter, Sandra Campbell, College Place; sister, Dorothy Dunnewin, Citrus Heights, Calif.; 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

STODDARD — Roland B., 101; born July 18, 1916,

Valentine, Neb.; died Feb. 20, 2018, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: wife, Grace Stoddard.

TANK — Margary (Klay) Godel, 90; born Aug. 6, 1927, Palo Alto, Calif.; died Jan. 16, 2018, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Duane; sons, Darrel, Boise; Steve, Susanville, Calif.; David, Ceres, Calif.; daughters, Candi Katsma, Tanzania, Africa; Penny Brown, Placerville, Calif.; brother, Albert Klay, Palo Alto; sister, Lorena Lentz, Fair Oaks, Calif.; 16 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

THOMAN — Scott Dale, 60; born Dec. 8, 1957, Portland, Ore.; died Jan. 14, 2018, Troutdale, Ore. Surviving: wife, Trude Thoman; sons, Greg, Lincoln, Neb.; Jeff, Portland; brother, David, Troutdale; and a grandchild.

THREEWIT — Terry Dean, 76; born Nov. 14, 1941, Orofino, Idaho; died Feb. 17, 2018, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Sharon (Buckner), Caldwell, Idaho; daughters, Chris Alexander, of Washington; Kathy Koenig, of Idaho; Connie Threewit, of Missouri; brother, Lee Threewit, of Arizona; sister, Betty VanBoren, of Alaska; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

TOMANKA — Ernest Lee, 93; born Aug. 26, 1924, Prague, Okla.; died Jan. 30, 2018, St. Helens, Ore. Surviving: wife, Dolores (Plouff); son, Larry, Scappoose, Ore.; daughter, Janet Bissell, Madras, Ore.; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WEAR — Lawrence “Chief” Gene, 88; born March 5, 1929, Loma Linda, Calif.; died Feb. 12, 2018, Coquille, Ore. Surviving:

wife, Lulu (Norris); son, Larry “Bear” Jr., Coquille; daughters, Janet Gillespie, Tumacacori, Ariz.; Cindy Blansett, Veneta, Ore.; brothers, Thomas, Covina, Calif.; Douglas, Takoma Park, Md.; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WENBERG — Bonita “Bonnie” Lee (Shaddock), 69; born Jan. 5, 1948, Little Falls, Minn.; died Oct. 24, 2017, Camano Island, Wash. Surviving: husband, Kenneth, Heppner, Ore.; sons, Erik, Lars, Peter and Nels; daughters, Heidi Wenberg and Mindy Faley; sisters, Terrie Myers and Candice Johnson; and 12 grandchildren.

WISBEY — Donald Clarkson, 93; born Sept. 7, 1924, Melton, N.D.; died Jan. 19, 2018, Ringgold, La. Surviving: sons, Donald D., Dayton, Ohio; Roy A., Ashland, Ore.; Daniel W., Loon Lake, Wash.; daughter, Sharon D. Helms, Ringgold; 5 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 9 great-great-grandchildren.

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

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

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

1926–2018

NANCY AND CHARLES PAGE

Nancy N. (Nielsen) Page, 84; born April 13, 1933, in Lincoln, Neb.; died May 8, 2017, in Bozeman, Mont.

Charles C. Page, 91; born Feb. 16, 1926, in Bozeman; died Jan. 2, 2018, in Bozeman.

Charles and Nancy Page are survived by their daughters Pam (Brian) Wahl and Linda (Tom) Glatts, both in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada; and their son, Ron (Mavis) Page in Bozeman; and 7 grandchildren.

Charles and Nancy established the Bozeman Hot Springs and KOA Campground, providing family recreation for more than 40 years. They were active in the Bozeman Church and appreciated their many friends there. Nancy lived valiantly with Parkinson’s disease for more than 15 years. Both she and Charles passed away in their sleep in their home eight months apart. The Page family will miss Charles and Nancy dearly and look forward to reuniting with them soon when Jesus comes.



Nancy and Charles Page

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

- June 2** — Local Church Budget;
- June 9** — World Budget: Multilingual Ministries/Chaplaincy Ministries;
- June 16** — Local Church Budget;
- June 23** — Local Conference Advance;
- June 30** — Union-Designated: Alaska Conference.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

WWU Missoula Master of Social Work 20th Anniversary Events

- June 7** — Professor Ann Szalda-Petree presents a seminar on Solution Focus. CEU available.
- June 26** — Missoula campus tour.

WWU at Camp Meeting

Stop by our booth and say hello: Montana Conference, June 13–16; Upper Columbia Conference, June 20–23; Washington Conference, June 15–16 and 22–23; Oregon Conference (Spanish), July 12–14; and Oregon Conference (English), July 18–21.

WWU Alumni Sabbath at Rosario

Aug. 25 — Join us for a relaxing day (or the full weekend) at the WWU Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory. Reservations available starting June 18 at wallawalla.edu/Rosario-sabbath.

OREGON CONFERENCE

'Food for Life' Plant-Based Cooking Class

June 7 — Food for Life Plant-Based Cooking Class at 6:30 p.m. with Deana Snyder, registered nurse, presenting. Everyone is welcome to this free class. You will enjoy the samples and the health lecture. God desires that each of us be our healthiest best for His service. So bring yourself and a friend to the Abundant Living Center, Castle Rock Church, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy N. Castle Rock, Wash. Questions? Call Wanda 360-967-2165.

Sunnyside's 37th Annual Strawberry Vespers

June 16 — The Sunnyside Church will be having its 37th annual Strawberry Vespers at 7 p.m. Come and bring your friends to enjoy some of Portland's finest musicians performing great religious music. After the program, please stay by and enjoy some of Oregon's finest strawberry shortcake. Sunnyside Church is located at 10501 SE Market St., Portland, Ore.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Dentists, Dental Hygienists Needed for Free Dental Clinic

July 27 and 29 — All professional services are provided on a volunteer basis. Dates are Friday, July 27, and Sunday, July 29.

Location: Moses Lake Church/Crestview Christian School, 1601 W. Valley Rd., Moses Lake, Wash. Sponsored by Caring Hands Worldwide and the Moses Lake Church. Contact Sandy Larsen at 509-771-4187 or prlarsen@nwi.net.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Missing Members

Olympia Transformation Life Center Church is looking for the following missing members: Terry Bergren, Doris Boggs, Jay Bong, Brian Gaver, Irina Hauvre, Sandra Holmes, Jane Hontz, Barbara Ladd, Cheree Luke, Angela Martel-Gomez, Janine McKown, Lois Miller, Sandra Miller, Judy Ogilvie, Patrick Ogilvie, Jenni O'Neill, Melissa Scharffenberg, Scot R. Simmons, Tracy K. Simmons, Wade Simmons, Corey Sjooben, Cauleen Soper, Janio Tapio, Ginger Thompson, Patricia Walker, Rolando and Reina Zarate, and Alan Giovanni. If you have any information, please call 360-943-1370 or email olympiasda@integrity.com.

Missing Members

The Shoreline Church is looking for the following missing members: Karin Boettcher, Joan Bunten, Tony Chu Jr., Angelia Chu, Marcella Cicilia, Victoria Clouse, Ted Clyde, Abel Cordova, David Crichton, Deborah Dunn, Steve Earhart, Marylou Earhart, Jackson Eman, Merawit Eshetu, Juan Flores-Gomez, Maria Flores-Gomez, Suzanne Gipson, Dan Hook, Diane Hook, Stanley Howard, Elisa Hunold, Rudy James, Bryan Jewell, Steven Kaestner, David Kelln, Christopher Lara, Denise Leslie, Karl Longoria, Sherry Lookabill and Don Lookabill. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact the Shoreline Church pastor at 253-314-7472 or bmorebobe@gmail.com.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.



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Classes

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit southern.edu/graduatestudies.

Employment

ADVENTIST TEACHERS NEEDED IN TAIWAN Taipei Adventist American School is an elementary school serving students in grades one to eight. If you are interested in teaching overseas at a mission school and have a four-year degree, please send your resume and three referenc-

es to secretary@taas-taiwan.com. For more information on current openings and benefits, please see taas-taiwan.com. You may also see our postings on the NAD Education website under K-12 world.

SECRETS UNSEALED is seeking a full-time accounting manager to join our 501(c)(3) ministry in Fresno, Calif. See position details at secretsunsealed.org/employment/.

OB-GYN, pediatrician, psychiatrist and psychologist needed for Adventist-owned/operated Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, Calif. Competitive pay. Call Dr. Randall Steffens at 615-604-0142.

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|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ALASKA CONFERENCE | | | | | |
| Anchorage | 11:18 | 11:31 | 11:39 | 11:43 | 11:41 |
| Fairbanks | 12:04 | 12:25 | 12:41 | 12:48 | 12:43 |
| Juneau | 9:48 | 9:58 | 10:05 | 10:08 | 10:07 |
| Ketchikan | 9:15 | 9:24 | 9:29 | 9:32 | 9:32 |
| IDAHO CONFERENCE | | | | | |
| Boise | 9:19 | 9:24 | 9:28 | 9:30 | 9:30 |
| La Grande | 8:32 | 8:38 | 8:42 | 8:44 | 8:44 |
| Pocatello | 9:01 | 9:06 | 9:10 | 9:12 | 9:13 |
| MONTANA CONFERENCE | | | | | |
| Billings | 8:56 | 9:01 | 9:05 | 9:08 | 9:08 |
| Havre | 9:12 | 9:18 | 9:22 | 9:24 | 9:25 |
| Helena | 9:13 | 9:19 | 9:23 | 9:25 | 9:25 |
| Miles City | 8:47 | 8:53 | 8:57 | 9:00 | 9:00 |
| Missoula | 9:22 | 9:28 | 9:32 | 9:34 | 9:35 |
| OREGON CONFERENCE | | | | | |
| Coos Bay | 8:50 | 8:55 | 8:59 | 9:01 | 9:02 |
| Medford | 8:41 | 8:46 | 8:50 | 8:52 | 8:52 |
| Portland | 8:57 | 8:57 | 9:01 | 9:03 | 9:04 |
| UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE | | | | | |
| Pendleton | 8:37 | 8:42 | 8:46 | 8:48 | 8:49 |
| Spokane | 8:39 | 8:45 | 8:49 | 8:51 | 8:52 |
| Walla Walla | 8:36 | 8:42 | 8:46 | 8:48 | 8:48 |
| Wenatchee | 8:49 | 8:55 | 9:00 | 9:08 | 9:02 |
| Yakima | 8:47 | 8:53 | 8:57 | 8:59 | 8:59 |
| WASHINGTON CONFERENCE | | | | | |
| Bellingham | 9:04 | 9:10 | 9:14 | 9:17 | 9:17 |
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WHICH CHURCH WOULD YOU JOIN?



Joe and Ann (not their real names) felt both hurt and shock as the words slammed into their hearing. Sadness fell upon them as they left the meeting that Sabbath morning, never to return. He had lived there since a toddler, she since marrying him some 30 years earlier.

The church was small, always seeking helpers, and both Joe and Ann were willing to step in as teacher, deacon, pianist, elder, just where needed. They were a friendly couple, doing their part in helping the small church thrive.

Now fast forward 18 years.

The church remains small, with only a handful of members. But, they still hold

Sabbath services, sometimes with a pastor, sometimes one of the church members filling the pastor's role.

Never has a church member called on or visited Joe and Ann to ask if they are okay, even though they still live in the same house. No, it's as if Joe and Ann don't exist anymore.

But Joe and Ann didn't give up their faith. They would attend another Adventist church when the weather was fine. But all church options were 40 or so miles distant, making it difficult to traverse on stormy days.

They do "join" church services over the satellite and Internet. They haven't given up but don't feel welcomed back at the little church.

How many others across this land feel the same? Maybe past members in my church or even in your church? People who have been hurt and felt not needed or wanted so they stopped attending church. Will you reach out to them with a visit or at least a phone call to say, "We miss you," to invite them back into the fold? People need to feel welcomed, to feel needed, to find friendship in the church if they are to return.

How are the visitors to your church made to feel welcome? I am reminded of two churches my wife and I visited. You decide which one you would like to attend.

At Church No. 1 with

about 400 members, we were greeted by a lady asking us to sign the guest book. She was the only person that morning to speak to us, though a few did smile.

At Church No. 2 with about 300 members, we had hardly entered before several came to welcome us. After we signed the guest book, one of the members started telling us where different Sabbath School classes were. Then she said, "Come with me to my class." In her class, we were treated like members, included in the discussion, made to feel at home.

Later, before the church service started and after, several others came to welcome us. Walking into the foyer at the close of the service, the pastor warmly encouraged us to join them at the potluck.

I know, were we to move, which church I'd want to join.

Ernie Jones is a member of the Village Church in College Place, Wash.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As space allows, the *Gleaner* provides the You Said It section for Northwest Adventist members to share their personal testimonies or inspirational thoughts. The views expressed are those of the writer and may not fully reflect those of the North Pacific Union Conference or its leadership. We welcome submissions of 500–900 words for You Said It.



SOUL WINNING

I like winning. I feel fairly confident that everyone does, since it is a rare thing to find someone who enjoys losing — at least in the general sense.

Losing money, losing our keys, losing our homework, losing the big game or losing our minds just don't satisfy like sweet victory.

Now, I am all for encouragement of those who don't win (in addition to some *friendly* trash talk between friends). I think effort and hard work deserve praise, though I feel a bit ambivalent about participation trophies. I bring this dynamic of winning and losing to the column this month because of a conversation I had regarding how so many, after the women's ordination vote at General Conference, framed the issue in winners and losers.

The term "winning" then began pushing buttons and pulling levels in my brain and led me to think about the realm of evangelism where we often talk about "soul winning." Where did we get that term? I thought about over-

bearing evangelists who want to "get decisions" and how so many church members become intimidated by evangelism because it seems like a contest where you have to overpower someone else's reasoning and then wrestle them into the baptism. Or we have to give a rhetorical masterpiece sales pitch to pique their interest.

Ugh, it's easier to just mail things and hope someone reads them. Where did we get this idea we need to "win" people? Prov. 11:30 seems to be a source ... of

sorts. The KJV renders the passage, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

Well, there it is. Time to winneth us some souls.

Other translations seem to echo this. The NIV says, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives," and the ESV boldly declares, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise."

Saving is good, capturing seems a bit different than "winning," but we speak of "capturing" people's attention, so that works I guess.

But some other translations seem to go off the rails a bit. The Holman Christian Standard Bible says, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but violence takes lives." The Good News Translation states, "Righteousness gives life, but violence takes it away." *The Message* renders it, "A good life is a fruit-bearing tree; a violent life destroys souls."

I needed more research.

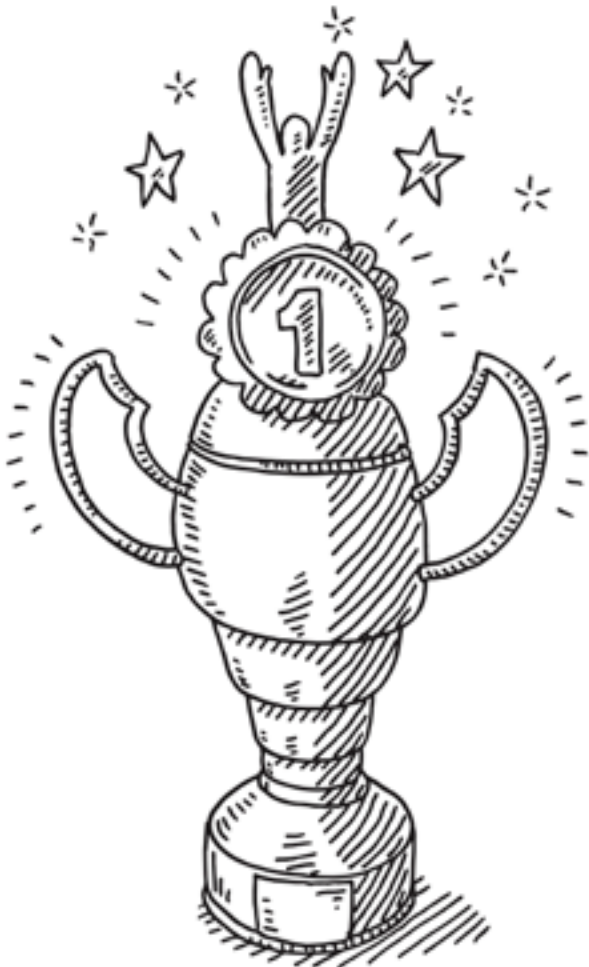
Even though there is a new (much-needed and appreciated) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, I went to the old version since my quest was to uncover the origins of this phrase and the apparent confusion of translations.

I was surprised to see the old commentary recognized and explained the issue. The Hebrew *loqeach* from the verb *laqach* means "to take" or "to take away." In combination with *nepshesh*, which also means "life" (not just that it seems more about taking people's



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



So many church members become intimidated by evangelism because it seems like a contest where you have to overpower someone else's reasoning.

lives, which doesn't seem like a wise thing to promote). The LXX (the Septuagint, or Greek Old Testament) renders the verse in such a way to make a point that the wicked's souls are "cut off" in contrast the righteous who are like a tree of life.¹

Despite the tension in the translations, at some point the concept of "winning souls" entered into the evangelism vocabulary. Communication professor Quentin Schultze observes, "During the Great Awakening of the mid-eighteenth century, mass evangelist such as George Whitfield refined rhetorical strategies that would 'guarantee' conversions.

They viewed 'soul winning' as a human-oriented enterprise. In the process evangelists inadvertently advanced a secular view of communication."²

This human-centered approach overemphasizes the technique of the rhetorician, instead of the living Christ present in the witness. This can lead to an argumentative debating style of sharing the gospel, rooted in the intellect instead of relationship, that becomes a clash of worldviews instead of a dialogue between two people — where we try to score points in order to "win." This has led some to suspect why we have traded the eye witness for the expert (pro-

fessional apologist/evangelist) witness.³

I believe in evangelism and sharing Jesus, so the point is not to commit career suicide by claiming no need for influencing others for eternity. Rather it is a call for reframing how we share. In *Speaking of Jesus: The Art of Not-Evangelism*, Carl Medearis says, "Relax. Enjoy your friends. Enjoy their company along with the company of Jesus. Point Him out, freely, without fear or intimidation. You're not responsible to sell Him to them. You're simply saying what you've seen. You're not the judge. You're the witness."⁴

Don't worry about not having a degree in theology; just share your testimony. Don't worry about not being able to have a conversion; just have conversation. Don't worry about winning; just witness.

1. Nichol, F., et al, eds., *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3. (D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1954), 986–987.
2. Schultze, Q., *Communicating for Life: Christian Stewardship in Communication and Media* (Ada, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2000).
3. Penner, M.B., *The End of Apologetics: Christian Witness in a Postmodern Context* (Ada, Mich.: Baker Academic, 203), 82.
4. Medearis, C., *Speaking of Jesus: The Art of Not-Evangelism*. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2011), 105.

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor

ADVENTISTS AND ABORTION

EDITOR'S NOTE: Perspective articles are the views of each author and do not necessarily represent the official stance of the North Pacific Union Conference or the *Gleaner*. We believe, however, they are words worthy of thought and discussion by our Northwest members.



AUTHOR

Martin Weber

Abortion is a controversial topic among Adventists. Many conscientious members defend abortion to preserve free choice, including freedom of religion. Others (myself included) see it as a matter of human life and death. Our dilemma is how to uphold both freedom and life — each a fundamental gift from God. Following are my conclusions, which I submit for your consideration.

Abortion is a hot potato we would rather not handle. In fact, the Seventh-day Adventist Church resisted making an official statement on the subject until nearly 20 years after *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion in America.

According to the “Christian View of Human Life” document voted at the 1992 Annual Council, “prenatal human life is a magnificent gift from God.” It naturally follows we should respect and preserve heaven’s gift of life. Yet our

church statement (cautiously) sanctions a woman’s decision to abort a baby under “serious jeopardy to her health.”

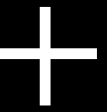
Defending women’s health is a popular entrance ramp in secular society to the abortion freeway (and everybody knows it). If an otherwise healthy woman with a healthy fetus feels distress about losing a promotion by carrying her baby to term, then arguably she may have an emotional health issue that justifies abortion.

Even apparently conservative language in our official statement (“serious jeopardy to her health”) does not restrain elective abortions, since debilitating depression can result from unwanted pregnancy. Assertions such as “the church does not condone abortions of convenience” need not prevent even a single abortion, since a woman’s concern about her career involves more than mere inconvenience.

Summarizing so far. Our attempt to preserve personal well-being and freedom of choice has produced an Adventist abortion policy with pro-life foliage but pro-choice fruit. It is designed to appear conservative while allowing permissive interpretation, rendering it useless in safeguarding unborn human life.

THE BIBLE AFFIRMS UNBORN LIFE

Scripture is not silent about prenatal human life. Hebrew and Greek both use the same words to describe a baby before and after birth. It was a baby, not disposable fetal tissue, who leaped in the womb of Elizabeth (Luke 1:44) when Mary visited her. All of us may be thankful the virgin mother did not abort the incarnate Son of God within her. Adventists who teach that the fetus is not human life need to explain what happened to Jesus for the nine months He lived in Mary’s womb.



Our dilemma is how to uphold both freedom and life — each a fundamental gift from God.

In light of all this, what justification can there be for destroying prenatal life, having acknowledged it as “a magnificent gift from God”? Is this not breaking the sixth commandment? And in facilitating abortion, are we not making ourselves the lords of life and death — thus also violating the fourth commandment, which memorializes the creation of life?

At the 1992 Annual Council debate about abortion, the General Conference Ministerial Association powerfully advocated for prenatal life. Our September issue of *Ministry* magazine that year featured articles and editorials on the subject. During the debate, I remember holding up a health magazine that described coffee drinking by

pregnant women as “unborn child abuse.”

I asked fellow delegates, “If causing the fetal heart to race a few minutes because of caffeine consumption is child abuse, then what is it when you invade the womb and literally tear apart that beating heart? How can we possibly pass a policy that permits that?”

Nevertheless, the abortion document was voted overwhelmingly. And now we find ourselves in an embarrassing and inexplicable situation: Public media report that Roman Catholics defend creation life in the womb while Seventh-day Adventists do not. I believe it is time to revisit our official church policy on abortion.

Some of us on the General Conference executive committee in 1992 supported an alternative Bible-based pro-life statement, presented by a minority group of the human life committee. The statement, as I recall from having helped write it, made allowance for special circumstances such as the life of the mother, rape, incest and grave fetal abnormality. While convictions differ, these exceptional cases comprise perhaps 3 percent of potential abortions.

Can we congregate on the side of creation life regarding the other 97 percent of pregnancies? That provides sufficient

common ground for respectful dialogue about elective situations that are indeed legitimate, such as saving a mother’s life.

Here’s the bottom line, as I see it: Creation life is more than just a doctrine to teach in Adventist classroom; it’s also a living reality to protect by taking a stand against abortions that needlessly destroy unborn life from God.

Finally, what about a woman’s free choice? It’s much easier to “choose life” (Deut. 30:19) within a community where grace reigns with truth. This facilitates the viable option of adoption for expectant mothers unable to raise their children. And, when we are a grace-filled community, we will not shun anyone who chooses differently. Those who thoughtfully pursue another path also deserve our compassion and understanding.

Martin Weber, retired from denominational service, is a hospice chaplain.





JUST LIKE JESUS

TAKERS AND GIVERS

Y

esterday's mail brought my copy of our new Bank of America Cash Rewards Visa card. Solid metal. With a golden chip that identifies me, my age, my appearance, my passwords, the name of my dog, my mother's

The world is filled with "takers." Jesus is a "giver."

maiden name and what I usually eat for breakfast.

It's bright red. With the BofA logo splashed across the front. On the back it has my personal private number, a security code and a wonderful silver hologram of a dove rising into a bright red sky. The bottom line praises me for being a member since 1972. We're celebrating 46 years of being together!

The bank has financed a couple cars for our family, helped the kids get through college, cared for a mortgage and always been ready to charge me an exorbitant

AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen amount of interest when we cannot pay the card off on time.

The only reason we still have the credit card is to cover any "overdrafts" that might occur while we're off on a trip to Fiji. Or South Africa. Or

Colorado. Other than that, the card is "inactive."

Yet, we still get regular offers to borrow money at "great rates." Promises to be our "friendly" mortgage banker. Encouragements to "refinance" or purchase some huge item we do not need. They are always there for us.

Funny, the bank doesn't seem impressed when we maintain a \$600 balance in our account and have no debt. It seems that they would like us better if we were paying interest on something, overdrawing our account or begging them to loan us money. They want more. More. More.

Yesterday's mail also brought "begging" letters from a dozen wonderful charities, most of which send us stuff we don't want in exchange for our feeling guilty for keeping the stuff and not sending them buckets of money. How many return address labels do we really need? Even if they have cute polar bears on them!

The world is filled with "takers."

Jesus is a "giver."

First, He gives His time. Thirty-two earthly years, plus the time it took to prepare for His earthly adventure. He likely feels that "earth" is about all He's ever done!

Second, He gives what-

ever people need, never even considering what He might get out of it.

No, let me take that back. I think "what He might get out of giving" is always on His mind. If He gives, maybe we'll stop, listen and choose to be loved. And, if we learn to *love being loved*, we might even choose to move in with Him, so He could give us even more!

Third, He keeps right on giving, even if we don't care to receive or are unwilling to acknowledge Him as the Giver. Flowers, children, puppies, peace, laughter, smiles, opportunities, snow, rain, water skis, cameras, mountain boots, sunglasses, cottage cheese loaf, soft hands, warm lips, cell phones . . .

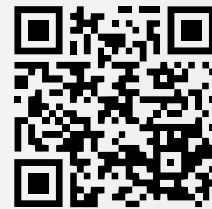
Fourth, He gives us freedom. Freedom to refuse the gifts or enjoy them. Freedom to become takers. Freedom to join in His giving.

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storyteller and storyteller





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