



rethinking
STEWARDSHIP

Gleaner

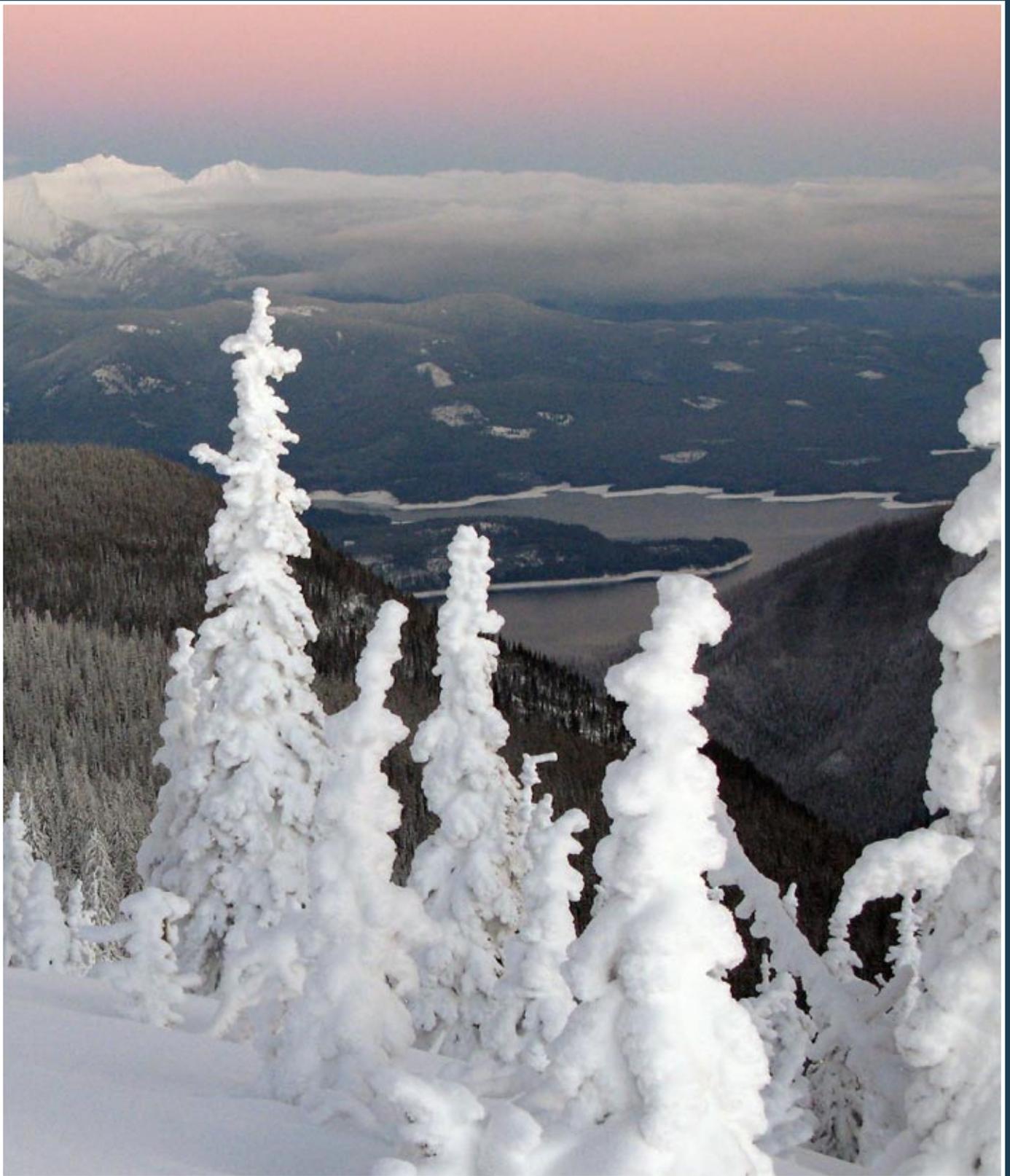
THWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

FEBRUARY 2010, Vol. 105, No. 2

Simple steps for
Spiritual
Growth

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IMAGES OF CREATION



The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
PSALM 118:23 (NIV)

“View Toward Glacier Park” by Bob Rittenhouse of Ellensburg, Wash.

It's All About Life

Last month I shared how I was privileged, early on in my ministry, to share Wednesday afternoons with Mel Rees. Around his dining room table I learned some “big ideas” about stewardship. These are ideas I still believe in and remember. The first big idea is — God owns everything. I am always only a manager of those resources — never their owner.

The second big idea I learned is an equation which says time + talent = life. When a person is born, God gives them two things — a measure of time and a measure of talent. Time and talent are the essential tools of stewardship. Note that money is not included in that equation.

In a simple society time and talent would be all we needed. Bartering would exchange resources when necessary. Yet time and talent have a critical limitation. They cannot be stored nor transported easily. Time past is time gone, and talents are useful only in the present. And that's where money comes to the rescue. In our complex society a man who is not a builder can use his time and talents in a job he is able to convert into money which he can store until he has enough for the home he wants built. Money must be regarded for what it is — a compound of time and talent, useful only as a medium of exchange.

Imagine yourself resting beside a sparkling mountain stream in the bottom of a deep gorge near a high mountain. You feel something crinkle in your shirt pocket and discover a twenty dollar bill. You take it out and look at it from an entirely new vantage point. Before you can use that twenty dollar bill you have to hike up the side of the mountain for two and one half hours. Then you must drive over a rough Forest Service road for sixty-seven miles. When you finally reach

the junction with the main highway there is a little store where this twenty dollar bill can be used.

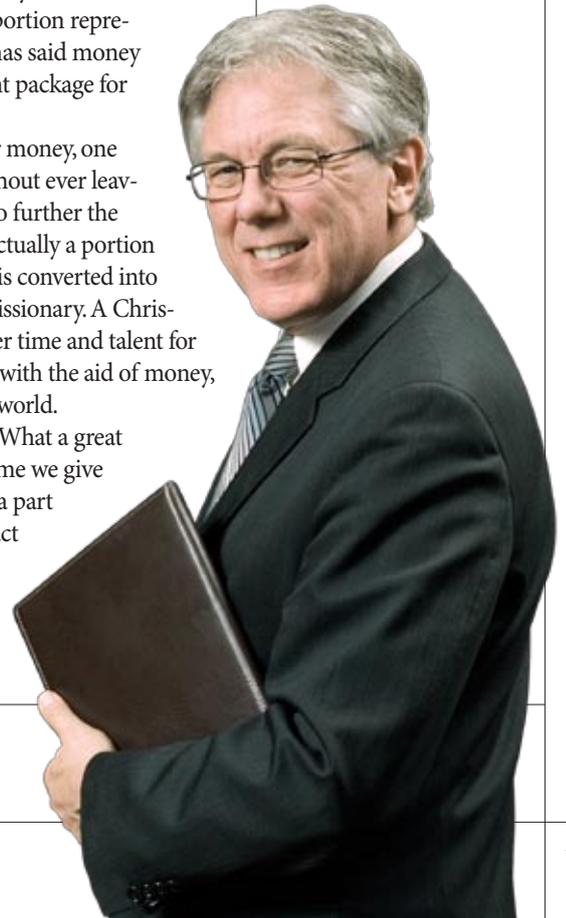
This brings us to the most important point about money. To be valuable, money must be reconverted into its original components. It must be reconverted into time and talent (or a product which represents time and talent) before it is useful again.

When a Christian steward places a gift of money in the offering plate, he is in reality placing a portion of his life there — that portion expended in producing the money. If one does not wish to give money to the Lord's cause, he really does not wish to give his life. The basis of Christianity is the entire life belongs to God — even the portion represented by money. Someone has said money is life done up in a convenient package for storage and use.

With the proper regard for money, one may go to a mission field without ever leaving home. As money is sent to further the gospel in foreign lands, it is actually a portion of the life of the giver, which is converted into the time and talents of the missionary. A Christian steward can use his or her time and talent for God in the community, then with the aid of money, labor vicariously all over the world.

What a thrilling prospect. What a great privilege and honor. Every time we give a financial gift we are giving a part of ourselves — it is truly an act of worship. •

“Every time we give a financial gift we are giving a part of ourselves — it is truly an act of worship.”



MAX TORKELSEN II
NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Churches Will Target Haiti Relief February 6

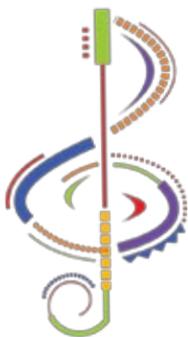
Many of the 470 churches Haiti's Adventist members worship in are now in ruins.

A special offering for "Haiti Disaster Relief (SDA)" will be taken on Sabbath, February 6, throughout the North American Division. Instead of ADRA funds which must be used for general needs, this offering will go directly to help devastated Adventist churches and members in Haiti.

ADRA and other Adventist agencies are mobilized in and around Port-au-Prince. Adventist groups have traveled from the Northwest and beyond to help. Go to gleaneronline.org for updated information.



ADVENTIST GOSPEL MUSIC DIRECTORY



Adventist Gospel Music Directory

Pastors and event planners have a new resource to help locate Adventist singers, song writers and musicians across the country and beyond. More information about this 100-page directory is available at www.adventistgospelmusicdirectory.com.

New Hope Channel Show Features Healing Hope

Lonnie Melashenko is hosting Healing Hope which launched on the Hope Channel on Jan. 2. He is assisted by Becky Wang, former Lifestyle Magazine physician. It airs each Saturday at 4 p.m., Monday at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday at 4 p.m., and Thursday at 7 p.m. (listings are all Pacific Standard Time). The program's goal is to show personal transformations which happen when the Great Physician and faith-based medicine join together.

Healthy Heart Clarification

The January GLEANER article about Healthy Heart Teams from Portland-area churches doing health screenings in large chain stores led to a potential misunderstanding. In order to do these events, interested church groups must become part of the Healthy Heart Team. For more information, contact Molly Geddis, Healthy Heart director, at (503) 912-0254 or e-mail hunti@pacifier.com.

Gleaner BLOGs

Gleaner Blogs:

- Let's Talk — NEW!
- Cindy's Garden Blog
- MAXimum Perspectives
- Current Events
- Current Gleaner Issue
- Finance
- Tip Sheet

The latest Northwest and World Church News:

www.gleaneronline.org

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SEND US YOUR COMMENTS!

Do you have a comment or question regarding something you've read in the GLEANER? Or, perhaps a brief anecdote or photo about your faith or your church? Share it with us on this page. Send your comments, anecdotes or photos to talk@gleaneronline.org or to GLEANER, 5709 N. 20th Street, Ridgefield, Wash., 98642.

I will get to the point. Why is the NPUC wasting financial resources by spending money on sending out *The Great Controversy* to members? I am not alone in this question. We already have many copies and do not need another. I am not sure what the goal of this was. However well meaning, we have so many greater needs. This is just another reason on the list of why members have a hard time giving generous support to the church.

Cynthia, via e-mail

Well, put your mind at rest — no NPUC funds were used for this project. It was entirely underwritten by a generous donor ... and here's why.

When Jere Patzer was North Pacific Union Conference president he had a dream of updating the Bible verses in The Desire of Ages from the

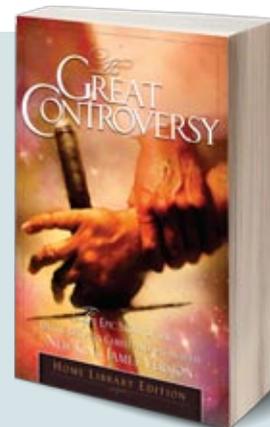
King James to the New King James version to help young people better understand Mrs. White's classic volumes. Other partners joined in: the Pacific Press, Lightbearers Ministries, artist Darrel Tank and MCM Design Studio. In December 2006 each NPUC family received a copy of the New King James Version of The Desire of Ages. The following Easter, we also sent a copy to more than 12,000 Northwest clergy members.

One of the donors who helped with the project shared a special interest about doing a special type of update for The Great Controversy. Even though Jere Patzer passed away, this gracious donor resolved to far surpass what had been originally envisioned. With his generous gift, the Pacific Press was able to not only print enough to send to each of

the 43,000 Adventist families on the GLEANER list, but also an additional 157,000 for distribution around the world by Adventist Book Centers and Lightbearers Ministries.

So, if you can't use it, we hope you will prayerfully share it with someone else who will be blessed by reading it at an especially opportune time in our world's history.

My husband and I just received the updated version of *The Great Controversy* in the mail. I want to thank you for making these books readable to the modern Adventist and for sending them out as a gift. I loved *The NKJV Desire of Ages*. It brought Christ to life for me. I had tried reading the original version many times, but never was able to get into the book. I am assuming that this new



book will bring the battle for my soul to life in much the same way. I look forward to reading this book in the new year.

Adrienne, via e-mail

Thank you for your article "When Angels Sing" (Let's Talk, December 2009). It is such an encouragement to be reminded of God's ability to accomplish that which He has set out to do.

Wendy, via e-mail.

PERSPECTIVE

God Got His Lawn Mower Back

When someone stole a riding lawn mower from the storage shed at the Yelm (Wash.) Adventist Church on or around March 11 last



year, they didn't reckon on divine intervention. Di Chappell, church office manager, related this story to the GLEANER.

Feeling moved to use the new church sign, a church member put out the plea on the church's outdoor signboard on Friday the 13th.

Sabbath morning, a woman who had seen the sign called the church just before services began. The mower was in her field. Apparently her neighbor

had stolen the rig and was in the process of trying to sell it when he was arrested by federal police on other charges. The woman took the mower, parked it on her property and called the police and the church.

Ben Lewis, head elder, who went to recover the mower, came back all smiles. It seems the mower had two flat tires when stolen but now sported two "like new" tires. Chappell says, "God must have a sense of



Ben Lewis, head elder, is glad to have God's lawn mower back with new tires.

humor. We serve an awesome God!"



rethinking
STEWARDSHIP

Simple Spirit

EDITORS' NOTE: In the second installment of this year's emphasis on Rethinking Stewardship, we take a look at how good stewardship begins with a personal commitment to giving and living your life for Christ.

*"Be like Jesus, this my song,
In the home and in the throng;
Be like Jesus all day long,
I would be like Jesus."*

Is this just a well-known hymn or can it be a well-known experience in our lives? What does it take to be a joyful, fully-devoted disciple rather than a bump-along-through-life church member?

Acts 2 gives us some important clues. At the end of his powerful prophetic sermon (Acts 2:14–36) Peter says "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," (Acts 2:38).

To begin our spiritual growth we need to repent and be baptized. This is the God-given way to admit we have been living a self-absorbed life. We now want to live a Christ-centered life and we are willing to be part of God's prophetic movement on earth. When this is done we are promised tremendous resources for our spiritual growth — forgiveness of our sins (all of them) and the gift of the Holy Spirit (all the power we'll ever need).

We learn important lessons about spiritual growth from the experience of the early believers described in Acts 2.

Ten ideas for Spiritual Growth

Growing spiritually is the work of a lifetime. Pick something on the list and take another step forward ...

1. Repent of a self-absorbed lifestyle and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins and to receive the Holy Spirit.
2. Pick a regular time, place and plan for personal Bible study, prayer and praise.

steps for tual Growth

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teachings and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer ... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved,” (Acts 2:41–42, 46–47).

In this short example are several activities that will also help us in our own spiritual journey.

Apostles Teaching

What did the apostles teach? They taught everything Jesus commanded them to teach, which was all the Scriptures, (Matthew 28:19–20) and in a very Christ-centered way (Acts 5:42). To grow daily we need to devote ourselves to daily Bible study, looking for Jesus in all the Scriptures (Isaiah 28:13) and asking the Holy Spirit to transform us (Romans 12:1–2) and give us wisdom (James 1:5).

Fellowship

We cannot really grow spiritually unless we are in fellowship with other believers — not only worshipping together but eating together, praying together and meeting the needs of other believers (Acts 2:44–45). Getting together frequently with other believers at the church and in homes (Acts 2:46) will become more and more important the closer we get to the Second Coming of Jesus (Hebrews 10:24–25).

Glad and Sincere Hearts

Life was difficult for the early believers but they were known as people who had “glad and sincere hearts,” who “praised God” regardless of circumstances. We grow spiritually when we think about

God and then thank Him in our hearts and with our lips for who He is, what He has done and what He has promised to do.

Outreach Growth

Acts 2 says “the Lord added to their number.” The early church grew in both faith and numbers (Acts 16:5) because it was a missionary-minded church.

“Let not believers center their thoughts upon themselves. Let them go to work for others, forgetting self in the loving desire to help those around them. Let them think and plan and work for those who know not God.”¹

Ellen White also reminds us “there is no greater bliss on this side of heaven than in winning souls to Christ.”² It’s at the divinely-designed core of personal spiritual growth. When we stretch beyond ourselves to reach others, we inadvertently reap a rich harvest in our own lives. •

¹ *Signs of the Times*, Aug. 21, 1901 par. 5

² Ellen White, *Evangelism*, p. 333

*Dan Serns, North Pacific Union
Conference Ministerial director*

3. Add 10 minutes to your daily time with Jesus in Bible study and prayer this week.
4. Invite a family or two from your church over to your house for a meal and sharing time.
5. Find someone in need in your church family or community and meet the need.
6. Join or start a home Bible study group.
7. Fast from something this week (e.g. bad habit or good hobby) so you will be more available to be used by God.
8. Make a new list of 10 things you are thankful for each day this week.
9. Make a prayer list of people you would like to invite to accept Jesus.
10. Invite someone to be your prayer partner this week.

ACCION

Los Secretos de la Vida Traen Esperanza a Miles de Personas

Esperanza tenía todo a su favor. Tenía una familia hermosa, bonita casa, excelente salud y un restaurante Mexicano muy exitoso y próspero. Ella trabajaba largas horas para mantener su negocio a flote pero aunque sentía que aparentemente tenía todo a su favor todavía sentía que le faltaba algo. Ella sentía que su vida necesitaba tener más propósito. Se sentía vacía, sola y hambrienta espiritualmente. Ella sabía que necesitaba a Dios en su vida pero no tenía tiempo para El. Su negocio la mantenía tan ocupada que casi no tenía tiempo ni para su familia y mucho menos para la iglesia. Un día cuando estaba atendiendo a sus clientes en su restaurante se dio cuenta que lo que ella necesitaba en su vida era una relación significativa



Pastor Ramón J. Canals comparte los Secretos De La Vida.



Pastor Harold Altamirano bautizando a Esperanza Rodriguez en la primera noche de la campaña.

con Jesucristo. Esperanza fue una de más de 350 personas que encontró esperanza y fue bautizada en la Unión del Pacífico Norte durante la Campaña Evangelística RED 2009, de la División Norteamericana que se llevó a cabo desde Portland, Ore., Oct. 23-31, 2009 con el pastor Ramón Canals. Realmente fue impresionante ver la cantidad de hermanos laicos y pastores que participaron activamente de estas reuniones en nuestra Union y también a través de toda la División. La conferencia de Washington reporta que tuvieron más de 100 centros de predicación con una asistencia de 5 a 20 personas en cada grupo. Muchos de estos ya fueron bautizados y otros se están preparando para el bautismo. Lo interesante de esta campaña es que no solamente

las iglesias Adventistas participaron sino que también los hermanos de Fe Pentecostal disfrutaron de los temas y varias familias fueron bautizadas. La Conferencia de Upper Columbia también participó activamente de esta campaña y nos reportan que este último Sábado se bautizaron cuatro

(ex) pentecostales más como fruto de la RED 2009. Al bautismo asistieron cuatro familias pentecostales que quedaron muy emocionadas con los "Secretos de la Vida" y ahora están pidiendo las antenas de Esperanza TV para instalarlas en sus casas. La iglesia de Mattawa es una de las iglesias más beneficiadas en la Conferencia de Upper Columbia con esta Campaña Evangelística. Hoy día se están reuniendo cerca de 80 personas cada Sábado para adorar a nuestro Dios, lo que indica un crecimiento de casi 100% en un año. Le damos honra y gloria a nuestro Dios por estas almas que desearon encontrar la esperanza que solo Dios puede dar. •

RamÚn Canals, vice presidente ministerios Hispanos



Pastor Enoc Marquez bautizando uno de los 350 personas que fueron bautizado durante la RED '09.

GC Youth Director Speaks to Young Alaskans

The first-ever Alaskan Youth Summit was held at Anchorage Junior Academy Oct. 30–31, 2009. Organization was provided by the Alaska Youth Ministries. The event was designed to address youth development needs, promote leadership skills, enable and empower youth to partner in the church mission. The event also provided a venue for a military appreciation ceremony in honor of men and women in uniform losing their lives while fighting for freedom and to commend thousands of Adventists in uniform. A tearful one-minute silence touched hearts as the audience reflected on the horrors of war and violence.

Friday vespers opened with Masai Fanene, an Alaskan Youth leader from the Anchor-



Youth gather at Anchorage Junior Academy Oct. 2009 for the first-ever Alaskan Youth Summit.

age Samoan Church. Fanene also led the Samoan choral group. Rona Hodges, of the Kenai AY, stressed the importance of empowering youth leadership while Miracle Ulises, of the Samoan AY, talked about witnessing. Roby Teeling, a youth leader from Wasilla, Alaska, shared the value of being alert from the constant attack of the enemy.

The Sabbath morning Youth Empowered to Serve emphasis on community outreach, civic engagement and volunteerism, was presented by Ephraim Palmero, Alaska Conference Youth Ministries director.

Baraka Muganda, World Church Youth Ministries director, challenged more than 320 youth and young adults to “share our testimony and less of

ourselves.” Muganda hailed the theme “Reflecting His Radiance” and advocated its application. Ric Palacios, Texas Conference pastor; Dennis Tello, Central California Conference pastor; and Bill Kasper, Alaska Conference pastor; provided the Sabbath afternoon sessions with inspirational messages and best-practice witnessing experiences.

“Yes, we would like this to happen again!” was a chorus among young people who attended.

The showcase of youth talents and skills enhanced a unified spirit of commitment, confidence, love and loyalty to the church. •

Ephraim Palmero, Alaska Conference Youth Ministries director

Bristol Bay Mission School Still Has an Impact

Forty years after the mission school in Aleknagik, Alaska, closed, its impact continues. Fred Davis attended there as a teenager in the 1960s from the village of Selawik, Alaska. He was baptized early on, but with subsequent struggles and victories over addictions, he recently expressed a desire to renew his commitment. Davis gave a public witness to God and his village by rebaptism on the first Sabbath of the new year January 2010.

Jim Kincaid, pastor and Adventist World Aviation project manager for Alaska missions, led out in the baptism. •

Ephraim Palmero



Warren Downs, pastor, joins Fred Davis who holds in his hand a book from the five-volume set of condensed *Conflict of the Ages* series he received as a baptismal gift.

Gem State Student

Speaks Out for Christ

I paused, my eyes dancing and my hands in the air, mid-motion. The children leaned forward eagerly awaiting the answer to my question. As speaker for the Sept. 14–18, 2009, Week of Prayer at Caldwell (Idaho) Adventist Elementary School, I was enjoying every minute of it. Finishing my talk, I reiterated the points of the last several days. I broke the 76 students up



into groups by class and invited them to pray together. This happened every day for five days.

To reinforce my point and give the children something to remember, I donned a different costume every day. During Wednesday's theme for example, I told of today's superheroes, why Jesus is the best superhero of all time, and how we can be superheroes for Christ. I wore the cape, mask, boots, and elbow-length gloves of the common superhero, not to mention the notes and the Bible.

When my planned musical help bailed right before the week began, I was grateful two capable musicians: James Fesler, assistant chaplain; and Kelsey Fleming, a fellow classmate; volunteered to help.

Several weeks later, a little boy approached me at a local



Ellissa Nelson catches students' attention with costumes during Week of Prayer at Caldwell (Idaho) Adventist Elementary School.

church and exclaimed: "Hey! I remember you! You are Robin Hood, and a cowgirl, and a superhero, and an Indian, and the princess!" I instantly knew he was a student at Caldwell. "That was so much fun!" he reflected with a wide smile.

The February before, I was

one of the speakers for a Gem State Academy evangelistic series. That experience stirred a passion for preaching within me. Now I always want the Spirit with me, using me to speak for Jesus. •

Ellissa Nelson, GSAA sophomore

Middleton Church Celebrates

Baptisms in New Building

On Nov. 21, 2009, the Middleton (Idaho) Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its first baptism in their new building. Alvin Schnell, head elder, baptized Charles and Frances Cortez. He also baptized his son-in-law, David Robertson.

Special guests for the occasion included Robertson's parents from California. Harold Dixon, Idaho Conference treasurer, led the singing. A special guest, Eleanor Lay, who is 97 years old, was instrumental in introducing Charlie and

Frances to the Adventist church when they were beginning a spiritual search.

Ann Hay was also a guest on this special Sabbath. She and her husband, Bob, donated a grand piano to the church in memory of their son, who died two years ago.

This is just one more exciting milestone for the Middleton Church. •

Sylvia Carcich, Middleton Church member



Alvin Schnell, Middleton (Idaho) Church head elder, baptizes his son-in-law David Robertson, one of the first in the new church building.

Great Falls Harvest Party

One of the favorite social events in the Great Falls (Mont.) Church is the annual harvest party, sponsored by the Five Falls Christian School. Over the years, members have had everything from bake sales to carnivals.

This year was no exception with a barn party planned by the Christina Clark, Home and School leader.



The grand march was led by the Great Falls, Mont., young people.

Philip and Shelby Vercio, church members and school parents, graciously allowed the use of their horse barn. Clark and a crew of helpers transformed the barn into an autumnal wonderland complete with hay bales, garlands, streamers, branches wrapped with lights and 130 pumpkins. Members and school families brought caramel apples and treats. The school provided hot mulled apple cider and fresh popcorn. With 50 mph wind gusts, a hayride and bonfire were out of the question but event planners were ready with a back-up plan.

The evening was spent playing standard harvest party games: musical chairs, wheelbarrow races, pumpkin-rolling relays and a good old-fashioned



A game of musical chairs is enjoyed by all at the Great Falls (Mont.) Church annual harvest party.

grand march. Many of the adults remembered marches from long ago, the children wondered why we hadn't done it before and a non-Adventist friend thought it was great fun, asking where

we found such a novel idea. To say everyone had a good time would be an understatement. •

Shelly Weber, Great Falls Church member

Billings Features All-Youth All-Night Lock-in

Following an outpouring of requests for more youth programs and activities, the Billings (Mont.) Adventist Church made plans for an all-youth, all-night lock-in at the church on Oct. 31, 2009. It was set to begin immediately following the first family/game night of the year. The family activities began at 6 p.m. and the lock-in began at 9.

The lock-in began with snacks and a short DVD worship presentation. The presentation asked the question "Why Jesus?" Following the DVD Brad Brown, pastor; and Craig Leach, Billings youth director; lead out in a



The Billings (Mont.) Adventist Church hosts an all-youth, all-night lock-in at the church on Oct. 31, 2009.

discussion. This was followed by some singing with guitars, campfire style, and a get-better-acquainted-activity. The activity required youth to discover answers to four questions about someone they were paired with at random. Later in the evening,

they had opportunity to test their memories. In addition, youth got moving in an attempt at a grand march followed by some volleyball. The volleyball continued until everyone was thoroughly tired out.

The last thing before bed-

time, everyone watched *Over the Hedge*. Everyone then hit the sack around midnight, and it was "lights out."

Volunteers arrived early the next morning to prepare a breakfast including pancakes with peaches, eggs and potatoes. Many thanks go to the volunteers who provided the feast.

Following breakfast, parents began to arrive to pick up their children. There was no shortage of energy exhibited in spite of their late night. •

Craig Leach, Billings Church youth leader

Secrets of Life Brings Hope to Thousands

Esperanza had a beautiful family, a nice home, excellent health and a prosperous Mexican restaurant. But she was still lacking something. Empty, lonely and spiritually starved, she knew she needed God in her life, but her business kept her so busy she barely had time for her family, let alone church. One day as she served customers, she realized she needed a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. Esperanza, whose name means hope, is one of more than 350 people baptized in the North Pacific Union during the NAD Hispanic NET meetings held Oct. 23–31, 2009, from Portland, Ore. The satellite series was titled: SECRETOS DE LA VIDA with Ramon J. Canals, NPUC evangelist. The meetings were aired by Esperanza TV throughout the North American Division and other countries. The meetings were a result of the combined

and united work of lay people, pastors and church administrators at all levels. More than 500 small group leaders were trained to invite friends to their homes, teach Bible studies and prepare people for the meetings. More than 500 satellite dishes were purchased and installed in homes and churches, including 11 Pentecostal homes. Hispanic pastors and church leaders had a goal of baptizing 1,500 people. Additionally, they wanted to train 500 small group leaders and plant five churches. As part of their strategy, that same week, they offered free medical services to the community. More than 1,200 people were given medical care during the day. Services included diabetes and cholesterol testing, medical and dental exams, eye examinations, chiropractic treatments as well as cooking and preventive medicine classes. Organizations that participated included: Pacific University Optometrist Department, Tuality Healthcare — Salud Services, Medical Teams International and Calderon Chiropractic Clinic, as well as several doctors and volunteers from private institutions. Nearly 200 people from the community were lined up for registration two hours before the nightly meetings. About 50 percent of those who came for medical reasons stayed for the meetings. Now Esperanza and thousands of people across North America have hope in the second coming of the Lord. •

Ramon Canals, NPUC Hispanic Ministries vice president



Ramon Canals, NPUC evangelist, shares the Secrets to Life in a nine-day series.



Harold Altamirano, pastor, baptizes Esperanza Rodriguez. She is one of 350 people baptized during the NET '09 series.



Hugo Yin blesses listeners with his musical talent.

Follow the Star in Gladstone

For eight years, the Gladstone (Ore.) Camp-ground has hosted Follow the Star. Beginning in September, volunteers begin setting up seven scenes. Conceived by Gladstone Park Church members, the event provides a visual enactment of Luke's story of Jesus' birth. Cumulative attendance records show more than thirty-thousand guests have experienced the event, complete with more than 120 actors, portraying shepherds, shop keepers, priests, angels, King Herod, Roman soldiers and wise men. There are also live sheep, horses and a llama. Though directed through the Gladstone Church, the outreach would not be what it is without the commitment of members from at least a dozen area churches. Learning lines and braving weather for five or six hours a night, is a commitment.

We do not know how many, of the record setting number of more than 4,700 guests this year, came for the first time, but believe it was likely close to half. Many returnees brought friends and relatives back with them.

One mother writes, "This is the fourth year my family has come... It is a tradition we all look forward too. Our daughter has been coming since she was two and can hardly wait to see baby Jesus at the end. The look on her face is truly magical when she sees Him while the angel sings." Another writes, "We like the fact that you follow the story in the Bible and make it interesting so that both adults and young children can enjoy it. Thank you for that."

Follow the Star is a ministry presenting the reality of Jesus' birth to thousands each year as well as a witness to the community of who Seventh-day Adventists are. New friendships are made each December and many doors are opened throughout the year when we mention that we are the ones who bring them Follow the Star each year.

Plan to attend next December. Come early to get your free tickets and enjoy the many guest musicians who perform in the Holden Center each evening while waiting for your tour group number to be called.

For more information, go to followthestar.us.

Richard Cook, Gladstone Park communication leader



BOB UHRIG
Angel April Burville announces the birth of Jesus to the shepherds as they watch over their sheep on the hill around Bethlehem.



BOB UHRIG
Eduardo and Kristina Fonseca portray the couple of the nativity scene.



BOB UHRIG
From left: Roman soldiers Fred Harvey and James Olson brave the cold on horseback to keep those traveling along the path in line.



BOB UHRIG
Prophetess Anna, portrayed by Sharon Koenig, predicts the future of the baby that is the Son of God in the courtyard of the temple.

Baptism Highlights Springfield Christmas Program

The baptism of a smiling, Linda Pelkey was the peak of a high Sabbath in Springfield, Ore., Dec. 19, 2009. This was Lutz Binus' first baptism as new pastor to Springfield Church. Violins, little angels guarding a baby Jesus, readings, voices raised in carols, and praise accompanied ushering in a new member. A special welcome dinner was held after church in honor of Pelkey's baptism.

As a child, Pelkey attended church per her parents' insistence, although they did not attend with her. Her childhood pastor asked her annually if she was ready to give her heart fully to the Lord. At age 13 she said,



Linda Pelkey, newly baptized member, stands with Lutz Binus, new pastor of the Springfield (Ore.) Church.

"Yes, I do love Jesus and want to live for Him." She was baptized, but as school and family influ-

ences pulled, her faith drifted. When her marriage ended in divorce, she once again started

seeking God and the surety and peace she found in Him as a young person. She made some Adventist friends, James and Caroline McHan, and attended the church women's retreat in Florence, Ore., this past year. "This is when I really decided this is where the Lord wants me. The women were so kind, lovely and caring. The Lord's love shone through them," she says.

To be baptized on a Sabbath with holiday music and praise, was an appropriate and fitting gift to God on the day celebrating His birth on earth. •

Cheryl Whitsell, Springfield Church member

Portland Adventist Academy Moves to Lose

Teachers and faculty at Portland Adventist Academy participated in a friendly competition resulting in a weight loss of 115 pounds by 24 staff members over a ten-week period.

The "Move It or Lose It" challenge was created by religion department teachers Stephen Lundquist, Greg Phillips and Les Zollbrecht. They hoped to inspire coworkers to get more activity, lose extra pounds and build friendships through teamwork.

The challenge was accepted and taken quite seriously. Several mornings Tim Erich, Social Studies department chair, rode

his bike over 20 miles to school. Others climbed mountains, kayaked, hiked and jogged.

"One of the greatest things about it was that it built camaraderie," says Phillips who lost 12 pounds. "It gave us something else to talk about besides the stresses of school."

Heidi Woodworth, Development and Alumni director and a member of the winning team, lost 18 pounds and loved the challenge. "It's a lot easier to be motivated when it becomes a friendly competition and you have a team supporting you." •

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent



"Jocks for Jesus Team" from left: Les Zollbrecht, Stephen Lundquist and Greg Phillips ride bikes to school daily during the "Move It or Lose It" challenge.

Woodland Church Members

Deliver Delicious Holiday Cheer

Members of the Woodland (Wash.) Church spread holiday cheer by providing delicious Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for local families in 2009.

Since 2001, members have been preparing the meal boxes. What started as a small project in the women's ministries department has grown to involve nearly the entire congregation. This year Woodland Church volunteers prepared 59 boxes, providing meals for 211 people in the community.

"The need has grown every year," says Pam Bennett, church member, "and we keep growing to meet it."



Woodland (Wash.) Church members prepare 59 food boxes, giving families in the surrounding community an opportunity to cook special meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Each box includes ingredients for several meals, fresh

produce, recipes and a holiday card from the church. "Each box

is made to order for a specific family," says Janice Ross, church member and founder of the project. "Some go to individuals and couples, while others go to families of eight."

Members donate food and money to supply a year-round pantry for those in need and to supply the holiday food box project.

"We used to deliver the boxes for Christmas," says Ross. "Now we get them out early so families can bake all through the holidays." •

CJ Anderson, Woodland Church volunteer

"Amazing Grace" Recognized

For 35 Years of Service

Lela Faulkner, leader of the Canyonville (Ore.) Adventist Community Services, presented a plaque to Grace Alice Mentzel in recognition of her 35 years of volunteer service.

At 95 years old, Mentzel is the oldest volunteer at CACS. Most Wednesdays you will find her sewing in the quilting depart-



Lela Faulkner (right), presents Grace Alice Mentzel with a plaque for 35 years of volunteer service.

ment. Many of her quilts have been available at the Dorcas Boutique during Gladstone Camp Meeting. Mentzel is never idle. For many years now, she has used her "spare" time to make t-shirts for missions and quilts for those in need. She also collects stuffed animals to give to children in the mission field. Many others have been enlisted by Mentzel along the way to help with her different mission projects.

"Amazing Grace," as her friends affectionately call her, was in a near fatal accident in 1999. Upon her miraculous recovery, she resumed volunteering and was quick to give God glory stating, "God isn't finished with me yet!"

Mentzel is quick to share a



"Amazing Grace" smiles while working on a quilt at the Canyonville (Ore.) Adventist Community Services.

smile, a word of encouragement, and to praise the Lord for her long life and good health that allow her to keep serving in her community and the

Canyonville Church. She truly is "Amazing Grace!" •

Melody Kolstad, Canyonville Church communication leader

Giving: The Lifeblood of Columbia Adventist Academy

At the end of a \$6.2-million-dollar-capital-campaign tunnel at Columbia Adventist Academy, one might think it's all about the money, but that couldn't be further from the truth. A key component of Columbia's mission is "to develop students who are caring citizens with a desire to serve God and others."

Music groups; church worship leadership; elementary school worships; a Christmas program for local, underprivileged Head Start children; blood drives; Invisible Children Inc., an outreach to help create a safe learning environment for children in Uganda; mission trips to Appalachia with the Meadow Glade Adventist Church and



The joy of having donated blood during Columbia Adventist Academy's blood drive is shown by their smiles.

to an orphanage in Mexico with International Children's Care; community service with the Family Education Center, Oregon Food Bank, Shepherd's door; and many other opportunities allow students to put Christianity into practice by

becoming God's hands, feet and mouthpieces.

It isn't all "give" though. The school has received immeasurable gifts of time, energy and money from the school family and community. They've been inspired by Craig Blanch-

ette, bronze medalist in the '88 Olympics, and Invisible Children "roadies" who encouraged them to step out of their comfort zones. They've also been blessed by the volunteers with Seniors in Action for God with Excellence who painted outbuildings to match the new facility, and volunteers who tutor students. And finally, they've been blessed by many donors, both named and anonymous, who have sacrificed generously for current and future students.

Giving is about a lifestyle, modeled by alumni and friends of CAA, and then transmitted. •

Larry Hiday, CAA GLEANER correspondent

Milo Elementary Shares Christmas Around the World

Milo Adventist Elementary School has been studying Christmas in different countries. Each student chose a country and then made display boards which talked about the traditions of that country and brought special items to display.

On Dec. 14, 2009, the elementary school held an open house to share with the community what they learned. They all brought different Christmas foods. There was sushi from Japan; stollen and German spice cookies from Germany; and Russian teacakes from Russia. Karina Bovee brought Venezu-

elan bread filled with raisins, stipples and olives and Tyler Lambie shared cookies made into the shape of his initials.

The community turned out to share this experience with the students. Sandra Sumerlin, head teacher, was very proud of her students and the work they put into it. All were able to share what they learned. •

Nancy Starr, MAES GLEANER correspondent



Steven Dahlman, Milo Elementary School student, talks about his Russian display.

Carpenter in the Kitchen

Sharing Christ One Meal at a Time

An important component of reaching our community for Christ is finding ways to serve as His hands and feet. Our service to others builds relationships and opens hearts to the gospel. That's what Mike Linderman has discovered in his unique outreach in Moscow, Idaho.

For eight years, Linderman has served as executive chef (meal planning, ordering of food, soliciting food donations and organizing volunteers) for Moscow Friendly Neighbors, a senior meals ministry in Moscow, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging. Twice a week, he helps provide 75–80 meals to the older population of Moscow.

Linderman, who averages more than 30 volunteer hours a week, humbly says, "I don't know much about cooking, but I leave it up to the Lord. I'm just a carpenter making

meals. I'm impressed what to do, and I just do it. It sounds crazy, but it's amazing what the Lord will do when we just trust."

His service is making a difference for many Moscow residents. The diners say his nutritionally sound meals, which include four to five salads, "... are the best food around."

Linderman knows this community service is more than about food. He says, "It's the only social contact some of these older community members have!" In addition, he often gets requests he is not sure how to fill and is able to share his witness. "I tell them the Lord will provide, and He always seems to come through." •

Kathy Marson, UCC communication administrative assistant



Michael Linderman, volunteer chef, serves meals to more than 70 senior citizens twice each week.

more
UCC
news

Watch a short video of Chef Mike Linderman at www.uccsda.org/proof.

Also online at gleaneronline.org:
Thirsty for More? How One Family Came to Christ.

Claudia Benson Flaiz, Anchor Point Church member

A Birthday Party For Jesus!

Anchor Point's Christmas Gift

Anchor Point Church in Hermiston, Ore., annually celebrates Jesus' incarnation with a birthday party including special gifts toward local needs.

This year, Anchor Point decided on two worthy projects. Members heard a report from Jim Williams, Anchor Point Food Bank director, that they were unable to provide Thanksgiving dinner boxes to the families they serve. There

would likely be a shortfall at Christmas. So members decided to give to the food bank to help needy families.

With this encouragement, Williams and his crew not only distributed full Christmas dinners to more than 60 appreciative families, but passed an extra \$500 toward the second Anchor Point project — helping Hermiston High School students.

When members heard more

than 50 of these high school students were homeless, they donated more than \$1,000 to an anonymous effort, providing these homeless students with much needed basic clothing and other essential articles. •

Journey to Bethlehem Events Impact 7,400

Despite cold December 2009 temperatures, more people than ever took the Journey to Bethlehem in the Upper Columbia Conference. In addition to the familiar Hermiston, Ore., and Spokane, Wash., area events, Yakima, Wash., members put on their first JTB this year. In all, more than 7,400 visitors passed through the three JTB sites.

The JTB experience is designed to give visitors a realistic view of what life was like in Jesus' time. Visitors are taken on a journey back in time, arriving in the city on the night Jesus was born. They walk among buyers and sellers in shops, pay their taxes to the Romans at the tax office, inquire about lodging at an inn that is already full, and listen as an angel tells the shepherds where to find the ultimate Christmas gift — Jesus the Savior.

For church members it's a journey of faith because it takes

months of preparation creating costumes and props, and hours of practice to act out the scenes. It's a group effort that can take as many as 300 volunteers and several area churches to put on.

"Sometimes during the process you feel like it is going to be a very expensive failure," says Nancy Engle, who has directed the event in Spokane for the last three years. "But God multiplies our efforts and things come together."

"When the Yakima Church board voted in April to present JTB, they knew it would be expensive and time-consuming," says Nita Hinman, Yakima Church communication leader. "But they felt inspired by those who had done it in the past."

Finding a church member to direct the event in Yakima was their first challenge. "Debbie Gilbert, one of our members who is a full-time nurse, turned the position down at first," says



A villager, Bob Meharry, barters with the net maker, Greg Baum, in the market place. Anchor Point, Hermiston, Heppner, Irrigon and Hermiston Spanish churches work together to create 2009's Journey to Bethlehem.

Hinman. "But after praying about it for a month, she was impressed to accept the major responsibility, and what a fabulous job she did. Our members felt the journey was a wonderful experience and a powerful evangelistic tool, and we hope to do it for many years to come."

Comments from those who make the journey indicate a

powerful impact. Statements like, "that fed my soul," and "I'm coming to your church next week," are a delight for any pastor or church member, reminding them of this great opportunity to share the gospel message. •

Jon Dalrymple, UCC communication assistant



From left: Bob Folkenberg, Upper Columbia Conference president, plays his part with two other wise men, Dale Bess and Weston Davis, in the Journey to Bethlehem at the South Hill Adventist Church, in Spokane, Wash.



DayIn Martin and Myranda Codd play the part of Joseph and Mary at the South Hill Adventist Church's Journey to Bethlehem.

Jordana GLOWS with True Happiness

When Jordana Ashburn read about “true happiness” she decided to try it out. Four years ago, Ashburn turned her life over to Christ and shortly after, she read these simple words in the book, *Ministry of Healing*, by Ellen White. “Remember that true joy can be found only in unselfish service.”

“I tried this quote out,” says Ashburn. “I told God I’d give Him a summer to find out if this was true.” So she went door to door, colporteur with Christian literature, and had amazing experiences.

“The positives far outweigh the fears of going,” she says. “Seeing people who need prayer and hearing them say, ‘Thank you so much for coming to my door’ makes it so worth it!” Ashburn is passionate about spreading the good news with people door to door and handing out Christian literature.

Before coming to the Upper Columbia Conference, Ashburn worked at Mountain View Academy in California as their assistant chaplain. “I interviewed for the UCC job,” says Ashburn, “but worried it would be a stretch. I knew the principal of the school would be unhappy if I left.” After the interview Ashburn says she was, “blown away by the potential in UCC to be a part of the new ‘Share the Life’ initiative and a movement of placing Bible workers in 66 districts.” So she made it a matter of prayer.

God answered through events that brought a qualified young lady to take her place and allowed the principal to change his mind. Ashburn is now coordinating GLOW, a literature program; helping to train Bible workers; and during the summer she will oversee Upper Columbia Youth Rush, a Magabook program where

students can test their faith and earn funds for



Jordana Ashburn’s enthusiasm for handing out GLOW tracts is contagious.

tuition. (Learn more about this program at www.uccsda.org/magabook.) Ashburn recommends going door to door to others. She says, “There are people waiting for you to come to their door. You will see your

relationship with God grow a ton. I absolutely encourage people to try it out.”

Churches interested in GLOW can call Ashburn. She will take individuals out door to door to get them started. “The Holy Spirit is working behind this,” says Ashburn. “For me it is not a business. It is God-inspired happiness.” •

Kathy Marson, UCC communication administrative assistant

GLOW is a program that trains church members to share literature. There are several small pamphlets on a variety of topics that can be distributed to people with whom you come in contact with every day or given to people door to door. More information is available at <http://uccsda.org/GLOW>.

Tri-City Junior Academy Class

Feeds Hungry Children

When Tri-City Junior Academy's, in Pasco, Wash., first- and second-grade teacher, Verna Canaday, heard about the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's offer to match six dollars to every dollar donated for the cause of feeding hungry children in third world countries, she knew her students needed to get involved.

When Canaday shared the opportunity with the first- and second-graders, they decided they wanted to raise \$200 to give to ADRA rather than

exchange gifts among themselves. With their \$200 added to the promised matching funds, they planned to end with a total of \$1,400 — a large sum for a handful of children.

They hosted a school-wide bake sale that netted almost \$175 for the campaign. This meant they only had to bring a dollar each on their party day to reach the goal. But instead of being content, they expanded their goal. They advertised their campaign and finished by bringing not only their own money but also additional of-

ferings from church members and parents. In all, the students had gained \$668.77. With the matching funds, TCJA students and their supporters raised a total of \$4,681.39.

They are grateful to all who supported this vision, parents who baked, church members who opened wallets, and fellow students who gave up exchanging presents to help others instead. •

Anthony Oucharek, TCJA principal



Tri-City Junior Academy students raise nearly \$5,000 to feed hungry children.

Yakima Church Celebrates Faith of Pioneers

In the summer of 1894, Elder S.H. Kime and several assistants held tent meetings in North Yakima, Wash. After the North Yakima meetings in 1894, Robert S. Donnell, conference president, reported: "At Yakima, the interest has been small, yet a few have taken their stand. We hope a church can be organized there in the near future." The next spring, March 30, 1895, his hope became a reality when the North Yakima Church was organized.

Almost 115 years later, Oct. 23–24, 2009, the Yakima Church celebrated the "Faith of Our Pioneers" with a heritage weekend, planned by the church history team: Jack Chambers, Vera Coleman, Bill Faith, Al McCoy, Bill and Velma Jean Robinson, Harry Sharley,



Sharlene Sloop plays a pump organ from the late 1800s, at the Yakima (Wash.) Church.

the late Joan Whitehead and Virginia Young. The weekend began Friday afternoon with a tour of a historical site of church interest followed by a power point presentation

by Doug Johnson, UCC vice president and historian, on the growth of the Adventist Church in the Pacific Northwest.

Bill Robinson led out as superintendent of an old-

fashioned Sabbath School for which Vera Coleman gave the secretary's report. Her grandfather, Phil Eustace, purchased the North 11th Ave. church site and led out in the construction project. He also built the chairs, matching pulpit, and communion table still in use today. The congregation moved to the 11th Ave. site in 1918 and occupied that building for nearly 50 years.

Thanks to those early pioneers, the Yakima Church, has more than 300 active members and spiritual seekers, and is reaching out to benefit youth and their community, with an aim to "keep our eyes fixed on Jesus" and His soon coming. •

Nita Hinman, Yakima Church communication leader

Holiday Outreach Nurtures Community Connections

Church holiday programs are becoming more purposeful in creating more community connections as church members invite their neighbors, colleagues, acquaintances, and friends to attend a variety of Christmas and holiday programs across western Washington.

“Even in a secular society, there are a few times a year when people think about spiritual things,” says Bruce Koch, Washington Conference Ministerial director. “Christmas and Easter are prime opportunities to reach people with the gospel of Jesus who would not be open to it at any other time of the year.”

Music programs form the core of church and school holiday programs. Chehalis Church opens their doors to the community each Christmas for a sing-a-long performance of the *Messiah*. Olympia Christian School performed their 10th-annual holiday concert in the Capitol Rotunda with bells, chimes, strings, flute and children’s voices.

Dramatic performances are rising in popularity, and presenting more opportunities for interacting with the community. Auburn Academy Church and its partners presented Journey to Bethlehem where 6,200 people attended over six nights of the interactive outdoor drama. Elsewhere, the Cedarhome Church had continued success with their Walk-Thru Living Nativity.

Enumclaw Church, like many churches, hosts a **Christmas breakfast** followed by a music and drama performance about the story of redemption from the cradle to the cross. The family atmosphere is warm and welcoming allowing church members to feel comfortable inviting their friends and family. In all, 230 people attended the December 2009 breakfast and program — representing the highest church attendance of the year.

Graham Church filled **shoebboxes and gift baggies** for the Family Renewal Shelter and Bonnie Lake Church Community Services. Thirty-five



HEIDI MARTELLA

The manger scene during Journey to Bethlehem was particularly poignant for people of all ages as the singing shepherds sang, “O Come Let Us Adore Him,” in Auburn, Wash.

people worked together on this project and filled 91 boxes. The church plans to keep in contact with these organizations to provide support throughout the year. Many schools participated in the shoebox sharing program, Operation Christmas Child, with some schools even serving as community shoebox collection centers.

The holidays present a difficult time for people in grief, and two churches offered **grief support programs**. Monroe Church presented a GriefShare program called “Surviving the Holidays” that outlined ways to find strength, healing and tools for moving forward in the daily walk through grief. Similarly, Auburn Academy Church hosted a Blue Christmas program in conjunction with the local police and fire departments to honor the memory of lost loved ones during the holidays. •

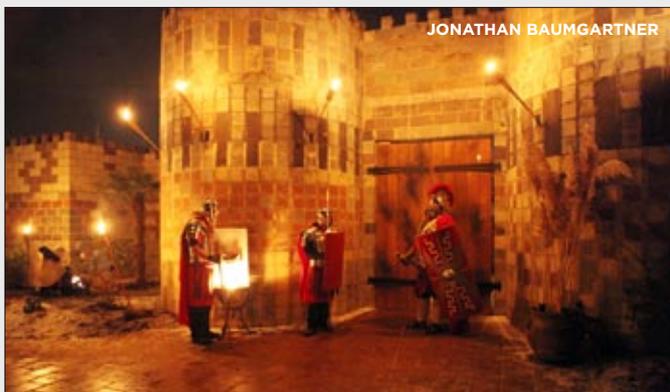
Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director

the **BIG**
PICTURE
of ministry

The Adventist church is empowering youth to make a difference through ministry and service to help young people to take Jesus to the world.

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JONATHAN BAUMGARTNER

More than 6,200 people came through the gates of Journey to Bethlehem in Auburn, Wash., representing many community connections.

AAA Students Host Christmas Party for Children

Enthusiasm and merriment filled the air as dozens of children piled off a school bus and flooded the cafeteria at Auburn Adventist Academy in mid-December 2009.

For the sixth consecutive year, AAA students hosted a Christmas party for underprivileged children. Considered one of the best Associated Student Body activities of the year, more than 75 academy students signed up to participate.

"I'll never forget seeing the little kids so excited about Santa," says Sean Leanhoff, a senior from Auburn, Wash. "When they saw the gifts and realized that they were for them, the kids were overjoyed."



Auburn student Larrinda Campbell enjoys frosting cookies with her sponsored child, Kevin.

In an effort to make a personal impact in the community, 40 children from underprivileged homes were invited to attend the celebration. Cookie

decorating, coloring, playing "Pin the Nose on Rudolf," and sitting on Santa's knee were just a few of the festivities planned for them.

"Eighty percent of the kids' parents are unemployed," says John Spano, ASB sponsor and event coordinator. "For most of the children who attended, the gifts that our students gave were the only presents they would receive this Christmas."

As Auburn students celebrated the holiday season, they were reminded of why the gift of giving is so precious. "Throwing a party for these kids was special," says Marissa Masden, a senior from Kent, Wash. "We were giving them a Christmas they might not otherwise have received." •

Jondelle D. McGhee, AAA GLEANER correspondent

Skagit Develops Caring Citizens

Skagit Adventist School in Burlington, Wash., implemented a service-oriented extra-curricular program this school year.

Every Wednesday afternoon, the school provides a service activity. As the program is completely voluntary, the volunteer groups are different each week with some students becoming regular volunteers.

Projects include yard work for a needy family, cooking and serving food at a local shelter, and marking storm drains for the county conservation office.

In addition, student volunteers washed fire engines and a police vehicle, distributed collection bags for holiday food



Student volunteers from Skagit Adventist School in Burlington, Wash., participate in service activities, including washing fire trucks, each Wednesday.

baskets in collaboration with the local Pathfinder club, and volunteered at the local Humane Society.

"I like to help other people," says Mariah Benedict, sixth-grade student. After the Skagit student

volunteers helped a family who needed yard clean-up assistance, the family showed up for church to ask for more information about Seventh-day Adventists.

"It is fun doing construction and clearing work and I enjoy helping the community," says Jesse Paul, a seventh-grade student. "My favorite project was the yard work."

This outreach program has been a great way for the community to learn about Skagit Adventist School and North Cascade Church. Students are learning to be better stewards of God's creation and to be more responsible, caring citizens. •

Karyelle Nelson, SAS teacher

Sequim Hosts Depression Recovery Seminar

Sequim (Wash.) Adventist Church wrapped up its first eight-week Dr. Neil Nedley's Depression Recovery Program in November 2009 with 19 participants receiving certificates of completion.

The church hosted a special evening — a cross between a celebration and a cleansing — to conclude the first eight-week

program. Attractive tables, soft background music, and a crackling fire in the fireplace provided a welcoming atmosphere where attendees enjoyed a healthy dinner menu.

After the meal, Tim Guthrie, facilitator and medical professional, asked each participant to explain their feelings about the seminar. Some mentioned the crises they have faced, like the loss of loved ones, and how eating better and taking care of their bodies helped with the stress so they don't fall into a deep depression.

While the seminar is not anti-medicine, some reported they were able to lower the amount of medicine they needed to take for their condition. Participants leave the program with a new outlook on life after learning about the total package of healthy living.

One participant shared how she planned to end her life and decided this was the last opportunity to attempt to cope with life's challenges. Thanks to the seminar sessions, she now looks



Tim Guthrie, medical professional, facilitates Dr. Neil Nedley's Depression Recovery Program in Sequim, Wash., where 19 participants completed the program in Nov. 2009.



Maureen Dowling leads a breakout session during Sequim (Wash.) Adventist Church's eight-week Dr. Neil Nedley's Depression Recovery Program.

forward to many happy years.

The seminar staff was thrilled and humbled as they listened to each one express their thoughts and their heartfelt thanks for making this program available in the Sequim area.

The next depression recovery seminar begins in March 2010 as Sequim continues to reach out in the community. •

Walter Grant, Sequim Church Health Ministries chairman

Washington Conference Session

Notice is hereby given that the 58th Regular Session of the Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® will convene in Auburn Adventist Academy Church, Auburn, Washington, on Sunday, April 18, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports of confer-

ence activities since the last Regular Conference Session; to elect officers, departmental directors, Conference Executive Committee, and the Board of Education for the ensuing quadrennium; for strategic planning; and to transact any other business that may properly come

before the delegates in session.

The Large Committee will meet on March 14 to elect the Nominating Committee for the Session, and the Nominating Committee will begin meeting on April 11.

Instructions have been sent to the pastors, clerks and first elders of each organized

church concerning delegate selection and other preparations for the Conference Session. •

John C. Freedman, president

Douglas L. Bing, executive secretary

Portland Embraces WWU Nursing Students

Last fall, Jonathan Russell, pastor, felt God telling him there was something to be done in Portland, Ore. Not sure how it applied to him, he kept quiet about it. Until he was offered a call. He accepted the position at Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church in Portland, and after his first sermon there a church member approached him with an idea.

“The thought was to do something special to reach out to the nursing students on the Portland campus,” explains Russell. “The campus is right across the street from our church, so we wanted to reach out and welcome them to the neighborhood.”

It started as a simple worship and soup supper one Friday night a month, with bread night on Mondays for students to stop by for a between-classes pick-me-up and study break. It quickly grew to a group of 20 church members rotating on a schedule to provide a full dinner for the students on Monday nights.

“They give these young people a first-class feast every week,” says Russell. “Instead of a simple grab-and-go PBJ snack, there are anywhere from 15 to 20 students relaxing and enjoying a full meal.”

It isn’t just the Sunnyside Church that’s involved with this outreach. One night a month the Pleasant Valley Church moves its Bible study and worship to Hansen Hall, the women’s dormitory on WWU’s Portland campus.

The students have noticed the outreach. Now, instead of simply attending church services, some are becoming more involved at Sunnyside, leading song service, joining choir and reading scripture for services.

“We’re really trying hard to involve the students,” says Russell. “And they’ve responded by blessing us with their talents and time.”

Russell says they aren’t just targeting WWU’s nursing students. Any and all young adults in the Portland area are welcome to join them for worship and soup on the second Friday of every month in Hansen Hall.



THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING THE FRIDAY-NIGHT WORSHIP AND SOUP SUPPER VARIES, BUT IN DECEMBER THE GROUP TOTALLED NEARLY FIFTY.

“Sometimes it’s easy for pastors to take credit and say, ‘Look at the ministry I’m doing,’” says Russell. “In this situation I must say I had nothing to do with it. God did something crazy and I’m fortunate enough to go along for the ride. This has definitely grown much bigger than we ever thought it would when someone sat down in my office and said, ‘What if...?’”

The WWU School of Nursing offers a bachelor of science

degree and currently has more than 120 students enrolled on the Portland campus, with an additional 160 registered nursing majors on the College Place, Wash., campus. A renovated library, new computer laboratory and a future classroom addition on the Portland campus will expand the nursing program by 60 students. •

Becky St. Clair, WWU GLEANER correspondent



THE UNIVERSITY’S PORTLAND CAMPUS NURSING STUDENTS REALLY ENJOY THE SPIRITUAL SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE SUNNYSIDE CHURCH IN PORTLAND, ORE.

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AMC Patient Experiences Christ Walking the Halls

“Believe in the sun, even when it does not shine. Believe in love, even when you do not feel it. Believe in God, even when you do not see Him.”

— Hans Kung (adapted)

Unexplainable tragedy, endless pain, mystifying loss — at times in life, it may seem hard to see God. But even in our darkest hour, he is always there.



The spirit of Jesus Christ is felt by staff and patients in the hallways of Adventist Medical Center.

That’s the lesson Adventist Medical Center patient, Holli, learned this year. A juvenile court administrator, she lived with tremendous back pain for many years, undergoing some very aggressive surgeries in other hospitals that left her immobilized. At the same time, she dealt with several difficult personal situations throughout her life that left her feeling hopeless, skeptical of others and angry with God.

As Holli’s back pain continued to worsen, she and her partner, Joni, finally called for help. First talking to AMC

neurologist Darrell Brett, M.D., they were soon referred to an orthopedic specialist, Timothy Treible, M.D.

Within minutes, Treible called Holli back, suggesting she come to his office that afternoon. Holli and Joni made the drive from Central Washington and within days, Treible and his colleague Jeffrey Boskind, M.D., performed the necessary procedures to help relieve her of pain. A few days after her second surgery, Holli started to move her legs in ways she hadn’t been able to in more than a year. Soon she was able to walk on her own, continuing her journey to recovery.

Throughout the procedures and recovery, Joni recalled someone once telling her that Christ walks the hallways of Adventist Medical Center. She hoped somehow Holli’s heart would be softened and receptive to the concept of faith. Joni said kiddingly, “Holli, if I run into Christ in the hallway I’m sending him directly to your room!”

Though originally joking, the change Joni saw in Holli during

her eight-day stay was nothing short of a miracle. It began when Holli invited a chaplain into her room and asked for prayer. Her tough exterior melted away as she felt the genuine care and compassion of each caregiver.

Joni commented she didn’t care if her partner ever walked again, but she prayed her heart would be healed through the experience of interacting with the staff of this hospital.

“The staff that walks these hallways is amazing,” says Holli. “There’s something going on here that I’ve never experienced anywhere else.”

After experiencing the mission and spiritual culture of AMC for eight days, there’s no doubt in the minds of Holli and Joni that Christ really does walk the hallways of the hospital. They’ve met him there through the many people who ministered to their emotional, physical and mental needs. •

Shawna Malvini, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent



MILESTONES

DAVIS 50TH

Kirby and Shirley (Van Der-schelden) Davis celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 23, 2009. They were married in Tonasket, Wash., on Aug. 23, 1959, one week after Kirby's graduation from Walla Walla College.

Kirby taught in Ritzville Adventist School the fall of 1959, then transferred to the Sunnyside (Wash.) Adventist School where both he and Shirley were the faculty for four years. Following that, they moved to Spokane, Wash., where Shirley attended Whitworth College, then graduated with the summer class of 1965 at Walla Walla College. Both were then employed at Spokane Jr. Academy.

In 1966, they traveled around the world. In Saigon they could hear the guns being fired at night. While in Jerusalem they received a call from Mark Olcott to teach at Kirkland (Wash.) Jr. Academy where they resided and taught for eleven years.

In 1977, they moved to Ferry County, Wash., where they designed and built their own home, helped start the Republic Adventist Church, and also started the church school in their home.

They are now both retired, having lived in Ferry County for 32 years. Shirley teaches a children's Sabbath School class. Kirby travels as much as possible and witnesses wherever he goes. They raise gardens and flowers, take walks, and participate in church activities. They enjoy bird watching and various aspects of nature study.

DIESNER 90TH

On Oct. 3, 2009, Bob Diesner celebrated his 90th birthday with his wife Frances McRae and his Tillamook (Ore.) Church family at a fellowship dinner.

Robert Schremser Diesner was born in Perry, Iowa, the youngest of five children. His father was the stationmaster of the railroad station. Robert's father died when he was 12. At 15 he was sent to Boston to live with an older married sister and her family. After graduating from high school, Bob worked in a chemical plant with his brother-in-law where dyes were manufactured, until at 22 he was drafted into the Army. Following his discharge from the service, he worked in shipyards in Long Beach and Mare Island, Calif., and eventually found himself living in Richland, Wash., employed by General Electric at what is now the Hanford Atomic Works.

Taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, he returned to Boston and enrolled in the Boston School of Accounting. Following graduation, Bob was employed by the federal government, the Atomic Energy Commission, where he worked for 17 years. He then formed his own business and worked as a tax accountant in Florida and North Carolina until he retired in 2002. Today, in spite of failing eyesight, he still manages his own stock portfolio.

Throughout his adult life, he was interested in religion and explored the beliefs of a number of denominations. Bob joined the Seventh-day Adventist

Church following completion of a Bible course from *It Is Written*, and is still an enthusiastic Bible student.

SMITH 90TH

Ardis Smith celebrated his 90th birthday on June 27, 2009. Family and more than 150 friends came to the Laurelwood Academy grounds in Jasper, Ore., to celebrate with Ardis. They all camped and had a pot-luck dinner after a short Sabbath service.

Ardis Smith was born in Centralia, Wash., June 27, 1919. Ardis went to Auburn Academy, graduating in 1939. He worked at a cabinet shop with his father, and during WWII worked in heavy construction. He moved to Springfield, Ore., in 1948.

He drove a log truck for several years. He had his own company called C and S Logging Co. Then Ardis started building homes in Springfield and Eugene, Ore., and retired from construction, but worked with Maranatha building churches in Oregon and Washington. He ended with Mission Church Builders in California. The last one was the Palm Desert Church. Ardis has built several homes to live in.

He married Josephine Blake in June of 1950. She passed away in 1975 after a bout with cancer. She was the mother of his five children.

He and Ila Mae Fristad were married June 13, 1976. They have spent winters in Southern California and visiting their children. Ardis plays his accordion nearly every day for self entertainment.

Ardis Smith's family includes Gary and Teri Smith of Creswell, Ore.; Karen and Ron Snow of Acampo, Calif.; Ron and Carol Smith of Jackson, Calif.; Tracy Smith of Denver, Colo.; 13 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

WALDE 50TH

Marvin L. and Shirley A. Walde celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 8, 2009, with a reception in College Place, Wash. The reception was hosted by their children.

Marvin L. Walde married Shirley A. Neuman on Nov. 8, 1959, in Burbank, Calif. Elmer Walde, an Uncle, GC TV and Radio Dept officiated the ceremony. Marvin was in the U.S. Army during 1955-1957, and graduated with a Graphic Arts degree from LA City College in 1959. Marvin was employed as printing pressman for Glendale Academy, *Voice of Prophecy*, Thousand Oaks Media Center and then retired from Color Press in Walla Walla, Wash., in 2000.

Shirley received her nursing degree from Glendale Adventist Hospital in 1957. She was then employed at Glendale Adventist Hospital in a variety of hospital positions. Shirley retired from the Family Medical Center in Walla Walla, Wash., in 2001.

The Walde family includes Teresa and Dan Reich of Walla Walla, Wash.; Keith and Karri Walde of Milton-Freewater, Ore.; and 6 grandchildren.

ADVENT MOVEMENT

BEN FIGUEROA is the new pastor for Volunteer Park Church in Seattle, Wash. He will continue to pastor the White Center Spanish (Wash.) Church as well.

KEN PARKER has accepted the invitation to pastor the Poulsbo and Port Townsend (Wash.) district. He and family will be transitioning from their current post at Bonney Lake and Voice of Hope (Wash.) Churches sometime this spring.

LUTZ BINUS is the new pastor for the Springfield (Ore.) Church. Binus previously served as pastor of the Hockinson Heights (Wash.) Church.

CJ ANDERSON completed his two-year internship with the North Pacific Union Conference at the end of December and joined the Texas Conference headquartered in Alvarado, Texas, as assistant communication director.

BIRTHS

ALBERTSEN—Aiyana Reine was born Oct. 4, 2009, to Kenneth and Amy (Kolkmann) Albertsen, Palmer, Alaska.

BALDWIN—Molly Irene was born Dec. 5, 2009, to Daniel and Jael (Barstow) Baldwin, Lebanon, Ore.

BLUMENBERG—Natalie Anne was born Dec. 26, 2009, to Wes and Joanie (Davis) Blumenberg, Fairview, Ore.

DARCY—Piers Conner was born Dec. 21, 2009, to Seth and Darcia (Gillham) Darcy, Walla Walla, Wash.

DYE—Willow Olivia was born Oct. 22, 2009, to Christopher A. and Angela M. (Kast) Dye, Wenatchee, Wash.

GOBER—Blake Daniel was born Sept. 20, 2009, to Scott and Caroline (Samananda) Gober, Roseburg, Ore.

GRANADOS—Josiah Aiden was born Nov. 29, 2009, to Demetrius and Rennae (Foote) Granados, Pendleton, Ore.

KOSTENKO—Nathan Levi was born Dec. 14, 2009, to Jered and Janae (Roesener) Kostenko, College Place, Wash.

LEE—Cohen Michael Aegis was born July 21, 2009, to Matthew and Karisse (Fiedler) Lee, Mount Vernon, Wash.

MCPHERSON—Matthew Stephen was born Dec. 29, 2009, to Peter J. and Heather M. (Lambie) McPherson, Nampa, Idaho.

SELTMANN—Jane Elizabeth was born Nov. 21, 2009, to Max and Sara (Douglass) Seltmann, Walla Walla, Wash.

TA—Eliana Mai was born Oct. 23, 2009, to Mikhai and Stephanie (Fritz) Ta, Chehalis, Wash.

THOMAS—Ryan James was born March 4, 2009, adopted by Hugh W. and Joanne M. (Ulloa) Thomas, Moses Lake, Wash.

WEBBER—Daniel Glen was born Oct. 2, 2007, adopted Oct. 16, 2009, by Benjamin D. and Kimberly D. (Serl) Webber, East Wenatchee, Wash.

WEDDINGS

BERRY-SCOTT—Christy Berry and Rudy Scott were married Aug. 30, 2009, in Eastsound, Wash. They are making their home in Walla Walla, Wash. Christy is the daughter of Kenneth Dale and Pauletta Berry. Rudy is the son of Martin and Beverly Scott.

HAAHEIM-JONES—Melissa Marie Haaheim and Jeffery Michael Jones were married Oct. 11, 2009, in Hillsboro, Ore., where they are making their home. Melissa is the daughter of Ronald and Janet Haaheim. Jeffery is the son of Michael and Kathy Jones.

LASPE-WASEMILLER—Beth-Anne Laspe and David Wasmiller were married Sept. 6, 2009, in Umpqua, Ore. They are making their home in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. Beth-Anne is the daughter of William and Marlys (Williams) Laspe. David is the son of Paul and Peggy (Ordelheide) Wasemiller.

PFEIFFER-ALLISON—Christine Pfeiffer and Don Allison were married Sept. 6, 2009, in Chehalis, Wash. They are making their home in Randle, Wash. Christine is the daughter of William Jr. and Clare Pfeiffer. Don is the son of Harold (deceased) and Ligaya Allison.

AT REST

AUSTIN—Emily Juanne, 66; born March 7, 1943, Denver, Colo.; died Oct. 26, 2009, Portland, Ore. Surviving: husband, Darrel; and daughter, Jennifer Austin, Portland.

BARKHURST—Mary Ann, 58; born June 18, 1951, Springfield, Ill.; died Nov. 19, 2009, Redmond, Ore. Surviving: husband, Ray; son, Scott; and daughter, Paula.

BRAATZ—George E., 86; born July 30, 1923, Oacoma, S.D.; died Dec. 12, 2009, Sweet Home, Ore. Surviving: sons, Dennis, Portland, Ore.; Richard, Sweet Home; stepsons, Ron Jantzen, Portland; David Kubech, Salem, Ore.; sister, Louise Smith, Portland; 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

BUDD—Gertrude “Trudy” (Hol-

loway), 90; born Oct. 7, 1919, Flora, Ore.; died Nov. 14, 2009, Longview, Wash. Surviving: son, Dan, Olympia, Wash.; daughter, Derreta Winsor, Kelso, Wash.; sisters, Mabel Kling, Lewiston, Idaho; Genevieve Robinson, Walla Walla, Wash.; Charlotte Gooding, Hermiston, Ore.; Joan Edwards, Spokane, Wash.; 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

DUCKWORTH—Wayne R., 72; born Aug. 28, 1936, Bend, Ore.; died Aug. 5, 2009, Lewisville, Texas. Surviving: wife, Bonnie J. (Chadwick) Duckworth Turley Garvin, Eagletown, Okla.; son, Richard W. Duckworth, Port Orchard, Wash.; stepsons, Gary P. Garvin, Renton, Wash.; Steve L. Garvin, Woodinville, Wash.; Jody W. Garvin, Nacogdoches, Texas; Bradley A. Turley, Monroe,

Wash.; stepdaughters, Valerie J. (Garvin) Shiver, Eagletown; Lisa A. (Garvin) Ward, Colville, Wash.; brother, Lawrence Duckworth, Paisley, Ore.; sisters, Geraldine Ocheltree, Port Orchard; Bonnie Fox, Lamar, Ark.; 23 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

FALLANG—Harold W., 90; born Dec. 18, 1918, Big Timber, Mont.; died Sept. 19, 2009, Butte, Mont. Surviving: sons, Bill, Livingston, Mont.; Bob and Tom, both of Butte; daughter, Marilyn Bailey, Butte; sister, Inita Scyphers, College Place, Wash.; 15 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

GOSS—Bonnie S. (Harris), 82; born July 17, 1927, Fruitland, Idaho; died Nov. 18, 2009, Olympia, Wash. Surviving: sons,

George Jr., Shelton, Wash.; Richard, Olympia; daughters, Sylvia Lewallen, Marsha McBrady and Bonita Berndson, all of Olympia; Rosemary Garnick, Bellingham, Wash.; brother, Curtis Harris, of Alabama; sisters, Myrna Rickard, Walla Walla, Wash.; Sheryl Harris, Olympia; 15 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

GRAVES—Donald Harold, 76; born Sept. 3, 1933, Portland, Ore.; died Nov. 30, 2009, Las Vegas, Nev. Surviving: wife, Izabel (DaSilva); sons, Greg, David and Tim, all of Bellingham, Wash.; daughters, Samantha Abraham, Palo Alto, Calif.; Sally Graves, San Diego, Calif.; Sharon Graves, Las Vegas; and 3 grandchildren.

HAYNES—William Leone, 86; born May 14, 1923, Grand Junc-

AT REST

tion, Colo.; died Oct. 26, 2009, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Helen (Cooper); daughters, Carol Rasmussen, Laurel, Md.; Kathy Knuth, Caldwell; Marjorie Yarmashiro, Park City, Utah; 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

HOFF—Evelyn May (Joers), 98; born Aug. 20, 1910, near Upham, N.D.; died Aug. 11, 2009, Tacoma, Wash.

HUTTON—Barbara Aileen (Twiggs), 82; born Aug. 21, 1927, Gentry, Ark.; died Dec. 9, 2009, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: sons, David, Puyallup, Wash.; Daniel, San Andreas, Calif.; daughters, Sharon Coupland, Grants Pass; Elizabeth “Betty” Poublan, Buoux, France; and 9 grandchildren.

JONES—Cecil Howard, 97; born Jan. 29, 1912, Avinger, Texas; died Nov. 7, 2009, Roseburg, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Barbara Gober, Roseburg; Janis Inman, Terrace, Calif.; 8 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

LANGSETH—Gladys Cassie (Jennings), 81; born June 18, 1927, Beavertown, Saskatchewan, Canada; died April 7, 2009, Auburn, Wash. Surviving: husband, Dale; daughters, Christine Whitson, Pacific, Wash.; Francis Herbert, Jewel, Ore.; Suellen Nicholas, Auburn; 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

LARSON—George Virgil II, 66; born Sept. 25, 1943, Prince Edward Island, Canada; died Oct. 10, 2009, Bangkok, Thailand. Surviving: wife, Kay (Corrin), Bethel, Maine; sons, George V. III, Kiowa, Okla.; Andrew, Eufaula, Okla.; Todd Posey, Bennington, Vt.; daughters, Stacey Larson, Eufaula; Teri Chadbourne, Boston, Mass.; brothers, Walt, Tillamook, Ore.; John, Saudi Arabia; Charles, Laguna Beach, Calif.; Jim Andres, Sacramento, Calif.; sisters, Joan Peterson, Grants Pass, Ore.; Linda Spagon, Sandpoint, Idaho; Aileen (Andres) Sox, Boise, Idaho; Melanie (Andres) Romero, Sanger, Calif.; and 8 grandchildren.

LEDINGTON—Raymond M. Sr., 86; born May 7, 1923, Weiser, Idaho; died Nov. 10, 2009, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Mary I. (Gabriel); sons, Eddie A., Portland; Raymond M. Jr., Gresham, Ore.; daughters, Marian A. Culley, Portland; Donna J. Kuper, Oregon City, Ore.; brother, Don C., Salem, Ore.; sister, Alda R. Lindquist, Prineville, Ore.; 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

LIBBY—Vern Rowland, 91; born June 25, 1918, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; died Oct. 9, 2009, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Lorene (Qualley); sons, Ralph, Burlington, Wash.; Wayne, Palm Springs, Calif.; daughter, Verdene Libby-Meyer, Indian Valley, Idaho; sister, Ruth Gowing, Everett, Wash.; brothers, Kenneth Rowland, Sedro-Woolley, Wash.; Dale Libby, Hanford, Calif.; 4 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

LITVIN—William K., 82; born Dec. 5, 1926, Killdeer, N.D.; died Aug. 10, 2009, Hillsboro, Ore. Surviving: wife, Edith (Mason); son, Cameron, Hillsboro; and sister, Elsie Peterson, Loma Linda, Calif.

MATSON—Harold M., 85; born June 14, 1924, Zillah, Wash.; died Dec. 5, 2009, Zillah. Surviving: son, Neal, Lewiston, Idaho; brother, Merlin, Yakima, Wash.; sister, Donna Webb, Portland, Ore.; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MATSON—Helen M. (McElroy), 83; born April 24, 1926, Pacific Grove, Calif.; died Nov. 20, 2009, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: husband, Harold, Zillah, Wash.; son, Neal, Lewiston, Idaho; sister, Betty Davis, Palm Springs, Calif.; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MILLER—Lyman, 92; born June 1, 1917, Eau Claire, Wis.; died Dec. 5, 2009, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sister, Lila Johnson, Racine, Wis.

MILLER—Victoria “Vickie” G. (Specht), 94; born Jan. 19, 1915, in Brazil; died Nov. 2, 2009,

College Place, Wash. Surviving: husband, Lyman D.

NELSON—Dale, 71; born Dec. 14, 1938, Miami Beach, Fla.; died Nov. 27, 2009, Great Falls, Mont. Surviving: son, Dale Jr., Great Falls; daughters, Charlene Nelson, St. Lucia; Andrea Esuk, Portland, Ore.; brothers, David, Great Falls; Clifford, Gainesville, Fla.; sister, Rachel Thompson Wiegand, Huntsville, Ala.; and 4 grandchildren.

OSMER—Rodney Gene, 61; born April 26, 1948, Windsor, Vt.; died Aug. 27, 2009, Kennewick, Wash. Surviving: wife, Lois (Wilcox), Irrigon, Ore.; sons, David, White River Junction, Vt.; Rocky, Burke, Vt.; Chad, Plainfield, N.H.; Gene, Lebanon, N.H.; father, Daniel, Sharon, Vt.; mother, Leona (Myers) Bates, Irrigon; grandmother, Bertha (Cline) Gallagher, Hood River, Ore.; brothers, Danny and Mitch, both of Irrigon; Randy, White River Junction; Richard, Salem, N.H.; sister, Deanna Stone, Irrigon; 13 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

PERESSINI—Violet Sarah (Polette), 96; born Nov. 1, 1912, Raynesford, Mont.; died Oct. 29, 2009, Stevensville, Mont. Surviving: son, Don, Missoula, Mont.; daughter, Virginia Davis, Stevensville; 4 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

PIA—Elizabeth (Ernst), 92; born July 24, 1917, Chino, Calif.; died Nov. 4, 2009, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Ray, Quilpue, Chile; Phillip A., Bonney Lake, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

REGULA—Nancy Elizabeth (Nelson), 75; born Oct. 15, 1934, Salem, Ore.; died Nov. 20, 2009, Star, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Dewayne William “Bill”; daughters, Laura Bohlman, Meridian, Idaho; Jolene Thomas, Hagerstown, Md.; 3 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren.

ROBERTS—Peggy J. (LaDow), 79; born April 16, 1930, Monte Vista, Colo.; died Nov. 21, 2009, Salem,

Ore. Surviving: son, Vern, Deltona, Fla.; daughters, Jerry Badger, Grays River, Wash.; Pat Dunn, Boring, Ore.; brother, Ray Thornton, Vancouver, Wash.; sisters, Phyllis Betnar, Clacksville, Alaska; Jean Watkins, Northglenn, Colo.; Betty Kites, Salem; Bertha Hartman, Ridgefield, Wash.; Cora Lee Farrell, Salem; Linda Lambert, Blain, Wash.; 8 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

ROSS—Robert Gene, 45; born March 16, 1964, Madera, Calif.; died Nov. 28, 2009, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: father, Robert L., Madera; brothers, Eric, Phoenix, Ore.; Darrin, Madera; Richey Luker, Grants Pass; and sister, Christina Lackey, Mooreland, Okla.

SPROED—Ann Ruth (Pfau), 92; born Feb. 2, 1917, North Howell, Ore.; died Aug. 25, 2009, Salem, Ore. Surviving: sons, Robert P., Hopewell, Ore.; John D., Roseburg, Ore.; brothers, Thomas Pfau and Joseph Pfau, both of Salem; Paul Pfau, Glen Ellen, Calif.; 12 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

STRESE—Ethel Nona (Schroeder) Cockerham, 91; born Feb. 10, 1918, Dubuque, Iowa; died Nov. 2, 2009, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: husband, Ivan; daughter, Sharon Coffey, Hermiston; brother, James Schnase, Salem, Ore.; 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

TEETER—Donald, 72; born April 11, 1937, Tacoma, Wash.; died June 10, 2009, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Betty (Bishop), Battle Ground, Wash.; daughters, Kari Kandoll, Cathlamet, Wash.; Kelly Schreiber, Scio, Ore.; Kami Arcudi, Vancouver; and 2 grandchildren.

VANCURLER—Sylvia Violet, 101; born June 20, 1908, Oceana, W.V.; died Oct. 17, 2009, Eagle, Idaho. Surviving: half brother, Harold Johnson, Boise, Idaho.

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

Feb. 6—Local Church Budget; **Feb. 13**—NAD Adventist Television Ministries; **Feb. 20**—Local Church Budget; **Feb. 27**—Local Conference Advance.

Special Days

Curriculum Focus for the Month — Family Life+

Feb. 6-27—Black History Month; **Feb. 7-13**—Christian Home and Marriage Week; **Feb. 20**—Health Ministries Sabbath.

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

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

Feb. 5-6—African American University Days. For more information, call (800) 541-8900. **Feb. 28 and March 4, 6, 7**—wwudrama Festival of the One-Acts. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit drama.wallawalla.edu. **March 4-7**—March University Days. All academy and high school seniors invited to attend. For more information, call (800) 541-8900.

IDAHO

Gem State Adventist Academy Homecoming

April 2-4—All alumni, former students, faculty, parents and friends are invited to the annual homecoming for Gem State Adventist Academy. The following graduating classes will be honored: 1930, '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90 and 2000.

The alumni office is looking for addresses for the following honor class graduates. If you see your name listed, or know the whereabouts of an individual on this list, please contact Linda Klinger at (208) 459-1627 ext. 158 or lklinger@gemstate.org. 1940 Grads: Lois (Aufderhar) Helms, Wanda (Miller) Padget, Helen Pollock. 1950 Grads: Naomi (Hohensee) Harris, Louise Tarbell. 1960 Grad: Bill Morse. 1970 Grads: Linda (Rothchild) Beckman, Sandie Belville, Myrle George, Lorrie (Shepard) Knutsen, Gale Wilson. 1980 Grads: Sherry (Johnson) Darocha, Steven Eilertsen, Karla (Vliet) Lazrovich, Mike Punzalan, Elana (Bartlett) Sample, Martin Todd, Kerry Way. 1985 Grads: Rita (Clark) Bradley, Lorri Larson, Shelly Martin. 1990 Grads: Alett (Boyer) Burlison, Aaron Burton, Kevin Dawes, Sue Herriman, Shawna (Johnson) Irvine, Andrew McChesney, John Mohr, Debbie Rudolph, Jamie Scott. 2000 Grads: Daniel Cayuela, Elisabet Diaz, Oliver Hivale, Amy Kanski, Ruben Rodriguez and Stephanie (Paap) Sims.

OREGON

José Rojas at Warner Pacific College

Feb. 23—One of the most inspiring youth speakers in the nation today and a sought-after international speaker is coming to Warner Pacific College in Portland, OR. José Vicente Rojas grew up in the bullet-ridden streets of East Los Angeles, and knows how to speak to today's youth at the crossfires of urban survival with a message for their future. Whether it is to an audience of 10 or 10,000, Rojas delivers a divinely power-packed message with humor and

music that leaves his audiences wanting more. Rojas will speak twice on campus. In the morning, for chapel service 10:30 a.m., at McGuire Hall he will challenge students on the theme of "Serving Christ in the City." He will speak again that same evening at 7:30 p.m., to the general audience on "How the Church Can Best Minister to the City." Both events are free of charge and are open to public. Warner Pacific College, located at SE Division and 68th Ave., in Portland, OR, is an urban Christian college affiliated with the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana), whose mission is to serve Christ in the city. The newly established Urban Studies Program is the sponsor of this event. For more information, contact Caleb Rosado, Urban Studies Program director, at (503) 517-1057 or by e-mail at crosado@warnerpacific.edu.

Mike Bishop Concerts

Feb. 27—Mike Bishop and his sister Marlynn Bishop will sing in concert at the Orchards Church, 6415 N.E. 102nd Ave., Vancouver, WA, at 5 p.m. For more information, call (360) 892-2925. **March 6**—Mike Bishop will speak and sing at the Whipple Creek Church's 11 a.m. church service. Then at 6 p.m., Mike will be joined by his sister Marlynn Bishop for a concert. Whipple Creek Church, 302 N.W. 179th St., Ridgefield, WA. For more information, call (360) 574-2540. His CD project "Not On My Own" as well as his previous CDs "Rise Again" and "My Hymnal: The Fourth Generation" will be available after the concerts.

Oregon Conference Single Adult Convention

March 5-6—at the

Holden Convention Center in Gladstone, OR. General session speakers will be Tracy and Angelina Wood, who will share their own compelling testimonies about surviving divorce, thriving as singles and finding each other. They will address issues singles face such as: Can men and women be "just friends?" What about the single's sexuality? Is it my job or God's to find me a mate? and more. Cost includes all general sessions, breakouts, three meals PLUS a banquet and concert: \$49 early bird register by Feb. 16; \$55 regular rate, register by Feb. 17-March 2; \$60 register late by March 3-6. Register by going to www.PlusLine.org or by calling (800) 732-7587.

Re:Frame Training

March 12-14—Learn how to build bridges with our neighbors and to frame the gospel of Christ in a way that resonates with post modern thinkers. Attend Re:Frame Training in Washington Conference. Matt Vincent is the facilitator. Registration and information at: washingtonconference.org/reframe.

Forest Grove 100th-year Anniversary Celebration

March 13—The Anniversary Committee, David Giles, pastor, and members wish to invite all former pastors and former members to the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Forest Grove Church. The celebration will be a one day affair and former pastors will be featured speakers for the morning service commencing at 9:30 a.m. A noon meal will be provided followed by special music and a church history CD presentation. If you

ANNOUNCEMENTS

plan to attend, please RSVP: e-mail fgsdachurch@yahoo.com; phone or fax message at (503) 357-9797; or mail to our church, 1950 Mountain View Lane, Forest Grove, OR 97116. We will need this information for planning the noon meal. We look forward to seeing and visiting with many of our former members. Call (503) 535-9295; e-mail dennis.l.james@verizon.net; 3839 Pacific Ave. #111, Forest Grove, OR 97116.

Big Lake Single's Retreat

March 19-21—This annual Big Lake Single's Retreat has been a favorite weekend for many singles and will fill up fast so please don't delay! This

is an ASAM Singles Activity, sponsored by Beaverton Adventist Singles. Cost is \$65 per adult and your check is your reservation. Make your check out to and send to Ron Hempstead: 2747 Nonpareil Rd., Sutherlin, OR 97479. For more information, go to www.beavertonsda.com/singles-home-page.

Warm Springs Missions - Our First Nations People

March 21-26—We invite you to come and be part of our mission team for a week where we will rebuild homes, paint, trash detail, yard maintenance, forest fire prevention, Vacation Bible School, Boys and Girls Club, health training and one-

on-one evangelism. This is for 8th grade students and up, Pathfinders and Adults. The Confederate Tribe of Warm Springs, OR, is located in the Cascade Mountains of central Oregon. The 4,000 members represent three tribes; the Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute Native Americans. The cost for the week is only \$175.00 which includes \$15.00 non-refundable registration fee. The registration deadline is Feb. 14th. Please pray about this! Friends Helping Friends Missions is a non-profit organization bringing individuals together as a team effort to spread the Gospel through "Living the Word," Matthew 25:35-40. We are affiliated with the Hockinson Heights Adventist Church. For more information, contact Jim and Ruth Klingler, organization directors: 10218 N.E. 76th St., Vancouver, WA 98662; (360) 903-3160; jmklingler@q.com.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Missing Members

The Richland Adventist Church is seeking information regarding the following missing members: Rachael Adams, Timothy Adams, Jennifer D. Ambriz, Judy Anderson, Frances Baldwin, Ruth Baldwin, Ronald Baugher, Shawn Baugher, Angela A. Bush, Larry D. Bush, Jill Cline, Melissa D. Cooley, Scott B. Davis, Mona Dury, Leanna N. Ellis, Amber Gerritson, Stefanie A. Hahn, Scott Kelly, Diana M. Krahn, Joella A. Lessor, Maridell S. Perry, Mark Petty, Gerald A. Phipps, Meribeth Phipps, Chris Poindexter, Tom Roller, David Saenz, David P. Saenz III, Georgia Schwanke, Eugene Smit, Mandy Smit, Charley

S. Snyder, Dennis Sovy, Amy Spicer, Angela Spicer, Diana Spicer, Pam Sutton, Aaron Vixie, Gail Wilkerson and Lezlie Wilkerson. If you have any information, please contact Jo Kostoff at (509) 967-2031 or cj.kostoff4@verizon.net.

WORLD CHURCH

The International Brass Choir at the General Conference Session

Are you interested in playing in the 2010 General Conference Session's 2nd International Brass Choir? We are recruiting college-level and professional brass players to play music for the church service on June 26, 2010. The GC Session will be held at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA. Players must provide their own transportation and lodging. There will also be several other opportunities and venues for performance, in order to maximize the experience for all those involved. If you are interested in obtaining more information, please contact the director, Dean Kravig at Dean@GCBrass.org, or by registering at GCBrass.org. Keep in mind that the brass choir is limited in size. Only those that have been approved will be able to perform in Atlanta.

Sunset Schedule

February	5	12	19	26
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ALASKA CONFERENCE

Anchorage	5:15	5:35	5:55	6:14
Fairbanks	4:44	5:08	5:31	5:54
Juneau	4:26	4:43	5:00	5:17
Ketchikan	4:29	4:44	4:59	5:13

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Boise	6:00	6:09	6:19	6:28
La Grande	5:04	5:14	5:24	5:34
Pocatello	5:46	5:56	6:05	6:14

MONTANA CONFERENCE

Billings	5:24	5:34	5:45	5:55
Havre	5:22	5:33	5:45	5:56
Helena	5:36	5:47	5:57	6:08
Miles City	5:12	5:22	5:33	5:43
Missoula	5:43	5:54	6:05	6:15

OREGON CONFERENCE

Coos Bay	5:32	5:42	5:51	6:00
Medford	5:29	5:38	5:47	5:56
Portland	5:21	5:32	5:42	5:52

UCC CONFERENCE

Pendleton	5:05	5:16	5:26	5:36
Spokane	4:55	5:06	5:17	5:28
Walla Walla	5:02	5:13	5:23	5:33
Wenatchee	5:07	5:18	5:29	5:40
Yakima	5:10	5:21	5:31	5:42

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Bellingham	5:13	5:24	5:36	5:47
Seattle	5:15	5:26	5:37	5:48

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Advertising Deadline

ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE
April May	Feb. 25 March 25

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

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Robert Folkenberg Jr., president; Doug R. Johnson, v.p. for administration; Myron Iseminger, v.p. for finance; 15918 E. Euclid Ave., Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1815; P.O. Box 19039, Spokane, WA 99219-9039; (509) 838-2761; www.uccsda.org.

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EVENT
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 Alumni WWU area chapter meetings: Young Alumni - Fri., Feb. 12, immediately following vespers in the church youth room, refreshments served; Alumni Potluck - Sabbath, Feb. 13, 12:30-2:30 pm, WWU Alumni Center Upstairs Board Room, 20 SW 4th Ave. Hosts: Principal Tim Kubrock and Alumni Director Charlotte Henderson.

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What Are You Reaching For?

“Coveting was not officially permitted in Sabbath School, but I had nonetheless been honing for weeks a long-term attraction to a luscious-looking pear.”

I had been eying the iridescent green bottle on the top shelf of the linen closet for days. It was out of reach ... and therefore desirable. To my three-year-old eyes, the glass bottle of Bactine looked fascinating.

So it was one day, with my mother otherwise occupied, I made the ascent from base camp to summit, clawing upward past blankets and towels toward the prize at the top.

It looked even better in my hand. But every little tike assumes the best things in life come via the mouth. So, of course I drank the whole bottle. My mother found me wandering the hallway looking green and worried.

There was no 911 service available in those ancient days — we didn't even have a telephone. So we took a not-so-leisurely drive to the doctor's office where, up on the exam table, I vented the remaining fumes with a long, sonorous BURP, a practice I have since refined.

End of story: I experienced no other negative (or positive) effects from my experience. You might think the internal dousing of antiseptic would have immunized me against all future infections. No such luck. Nor was I immediately deterred from other questionable objects of desire.

In fact, a year or so later, curiosity again won out in Cradle Roll. Singing a little song about wonderful things God

had made, the teacher brought around a plate with different sorts of fruit for us to hold during the song. Coveting was not officially permitted in Sabbath School, but I had nonetheless been honing for weeks a long-term attraction to a luscious-looking pear on that plate. Like the unfortunate cripple at the Pool of Bethesda, someone had always got to it first. But not this time. And while the teacher had her back turned, I took a surreptitious bite, and discovered (duh!) ... a wax pear no doubt handled by dozens of chubby hands over decades. It was awful, nasty and an abrupt education.

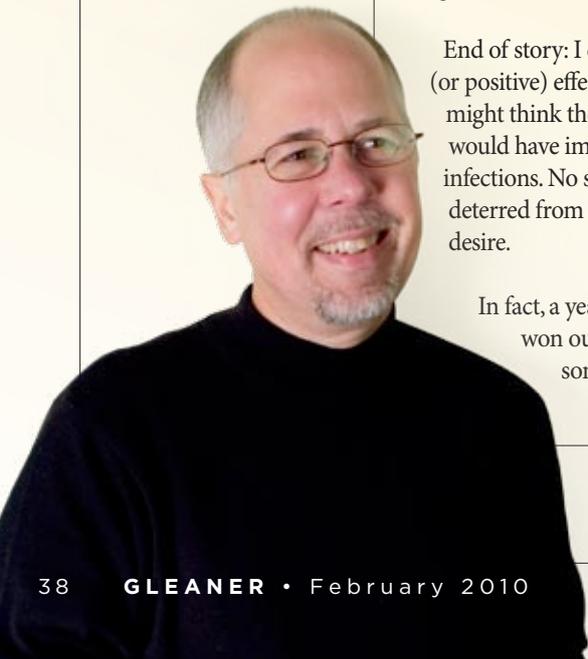
Early on I learned perceptions can be skewed. What you think you see is not always what you get. What you reach for can be a snare. What you want is not always best. The Bible is replete with examples.

Eve got her apple. Esau got his lentils. Moses got his water. David got Bathsheba. But they all lost so much more in the “getting.”

If, as Ellen White observes, God's ideal is “higher than the highest human thought,” perhaps their problem and our problem is in allowing misguided desire to limit our reach. God's word comes ringing down through the ages, still true: “Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?” (Isaiah 55:2, NKJV)

What are you reaching for? •

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