

MY STORY
KIRK GORMLEY'S TESTIMONY

**CROSSING THE
GENERATIONAL DIVIDE**
PART 2

**LET'S TALK
STUPID**

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

IN PRISON

...AND YOU VISITED ME



FEB.
2014
VOL. 109, N° 2



Give thanks in all circumstances; for
this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 THESS. 5:18



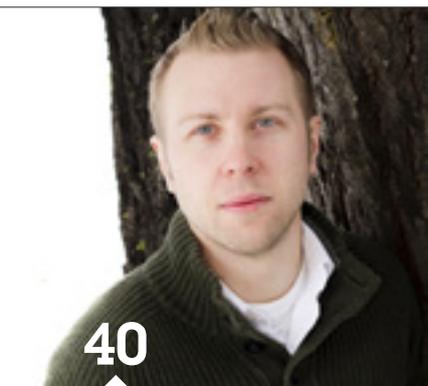
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INTERSECTIONS

ADVENTIST HEALTH WELCOMES NEW LEADERS



**SCOTT REINER, ADVENTIST
HEALTH PRESIDENT-ELECT**

NEW CORPORATE PRESIDENT

Scott Reiner, Adventist Health executive vice president and COO, has been appointed president to succeed Robert G. Carmen, who announced his intent to retire in September. Upon the vote of the board of directors, Reiner became president-elect as of Dec. 16, with immediate transitioning of executive responsibilities. The transition is to be completed by March 31.

Reiner has spent a significant number of years within Adventist Health. He started his leadership as the CEO of Glendale Adventist Medical Center (GAMC), a 515-bed facility in Southern California. After seven years of service at GAMC,

Reiner assumed the role of senior vice president of Adventist Health in 2006. He chaired the boards of nine hospitals and also oversaw business development, innovations and philanthropy from the corporate office. In 2010, Reiner was named the executive vice president and COO, responsible for the day-to-day operations of Adventist Health. The role included visioning, architecting, implementing and sourcing leaders needed to operationalize Adventist Health's strategy.

Reiner holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., and a master's degree in health administration from California State University, Northridge.

Congratulations to our 2014 *Images of Creation* Winners

From more than 1,000 entries, the following individuals submitted photographs selected to be featured in the print *Gleaner* or at GleanerNow.com.

Enjoy the beauty of the Northwest as portrayed by the hand of our Creator and captured by some of our very own photography buffs. Throughout this year, take some of your own photographs and prepare to enter the 2015 Images of Creation contest, to be formally announced in October.



According to contest guidelines, an award of \$200 corresponds with each photo selected for the print issue. There is no monetary award for those selected as photo of the week for the website, but each can be viewed in a special online gallery at GleanerNow.com. Those who wish to acquire a high-resolution version of any of the featured photos may contact the *Gleaner*. We will forward such requests to the photographers for a direct response.

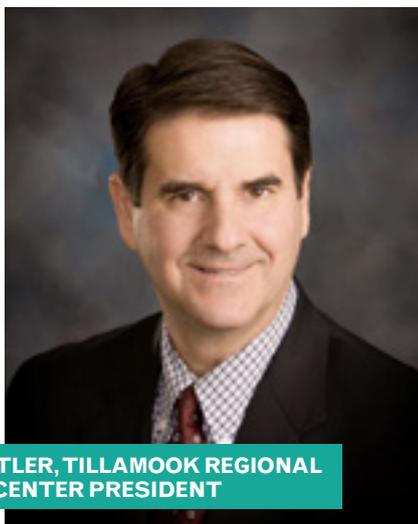


Print

Adam Cornwell
Christina Angquico
Erin Bartsch
Gary States
Lynne McClure
Terry Loss

Online

Adam Cornwell
Chris Drake
Christina Angquico
Chuck Davis
Clinton Cummings
Corky Hunter
Jan Edwards
Jennifer Bechtel
John Dale
Julie Cowin
Lisa Hainey
Lynne McClure
Nathanael Martin
Ozzie Rico
Terry Loss
Wesley E. Clark
Willard Santee



DAVID BUTLER, TILLAMOOK REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER PRESIDENT

NEW PRESIDENT AT TILLAMOOK

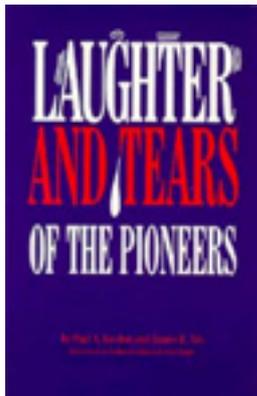
David Butler has been named president and CEO of Tillamook (Ore.) Regional Medical Center (TRMC). Butler will assume his responsibility for TRMC and its multiple physician clinics and urgent care centers along the Oregon coast on Feb. 3.

Butler has more than 25 years of experience leading large and rural-sized health care facilities. He has most recently served as CEO for North Canyon Medical Center, a critical-access hospital in Gooding, Idaho.

Prior to his Idaho position, Butler was president/CEO of Jellico Community Hospital in Jellico, Tenn. He holds a bachelor's degree in long-term healthcare administration, Associate of Science in nursing and Master of Business Administration from Southern Adventist University (Collegedale, Tenn.).

WILLIAM MILLER'S WORDS OF WISDOM

As quoted from *Laughter and Tears of the Pioneers* by Paul Gordon and James Nix, these sage words of wisdom attributed to William Miller resonate at times with *Gleaner* editors: "When we write to a brother to complain of his opinions, let us consider it three days before we write; pray God nine times to direct us before we take the pen; read it in the room of our brother three times before we send it; seal it only when we love him for being God-like; send it when we would delight to be the bearer; while it is going, think with what tears of joy he will devour its contents; and remember to pay the postage."



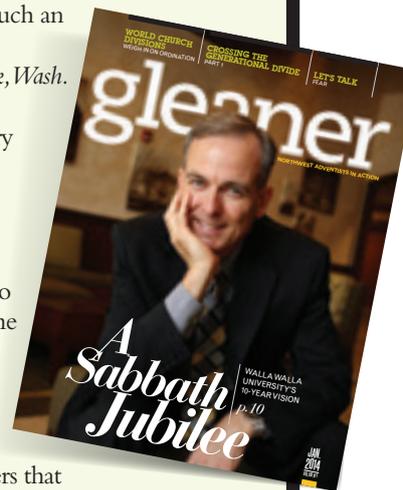
LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

An Unchristian Tactic?

Regular readers of the *Gleaner* will recall the following paragraph [Intersections, January 2014]: "The *Gleaner* here notes that of the early reports the most assertive votes toward inclusion of women in ordination have come from divisions that together represent a significant percentage of tithing income for the world church but [a] relatively small percentage of church membership." Perceptive readers will, as well, immediately recognize this for the subtle [sic] threat that it is. It can be taken in basically but two ways, neither of which should be used in Christian circles, and especially not in setting policy: The world church will do it our way or we will withhold our financial support, or if it sounds a mite less demanding, because we pay the "lion's share" of the world budget you are obligated to do it our way. Quite frankly, it saddens and sickens a lot of us to see an "official" church publication resorting to such an unchristian political tactic.

Ken Campbell, Deer Park, Wash.

Gleaner responds: Ken, we're sorry you and perhaps others assumed the worst. The sentence in question was placed in the article to clarify that the number of divisions voting a certain direction is not directly proportional to a majority of worldwide members. The divisions who have voted in favor of recommending women's ordination do represent a relatively small part of the church's total membership. We intended to thus remind *Gleaner* readers that world church leaders must hear from all the divisions, and especially those that represent the growing edge and highest percentage of our membership, not just those with larger tithing dollars. You perceived a threat. None was intended. Since the January issue was published, the *Gleaner* website has added information to the NW Roundtable portion of its website on the ordination topic, which we hope will be helpful to those seeking accurate information, not assumptions.



Faith Not Fear

[Regarding Let's Talk, January 2014] I do still struggle with fear thoughts as they were programmed into me since I was four and a half years old. My parents, brother and I fled Germany on the last ship to Shanghai, China, the only place still accepting refugees. The insecurity and hard life there until we all came to America in 1948 causes some problems even now. With God's help I can deal with them and look forward to Christ's soon coming to make "all things new."

Inge Junghans, Billings, Mont.

Send your letters to talk@gleanernow.com.

Prison ministry is alive and well in Madras, Ore.

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Hospital promotes Tea for the Soul.

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Bye-bye to Ruth Stanton in Montana.

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Alex Bryan to return as senior pastor at WWU.

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Student body organization ASWWU operates The Atlas, a place where students can socialize.

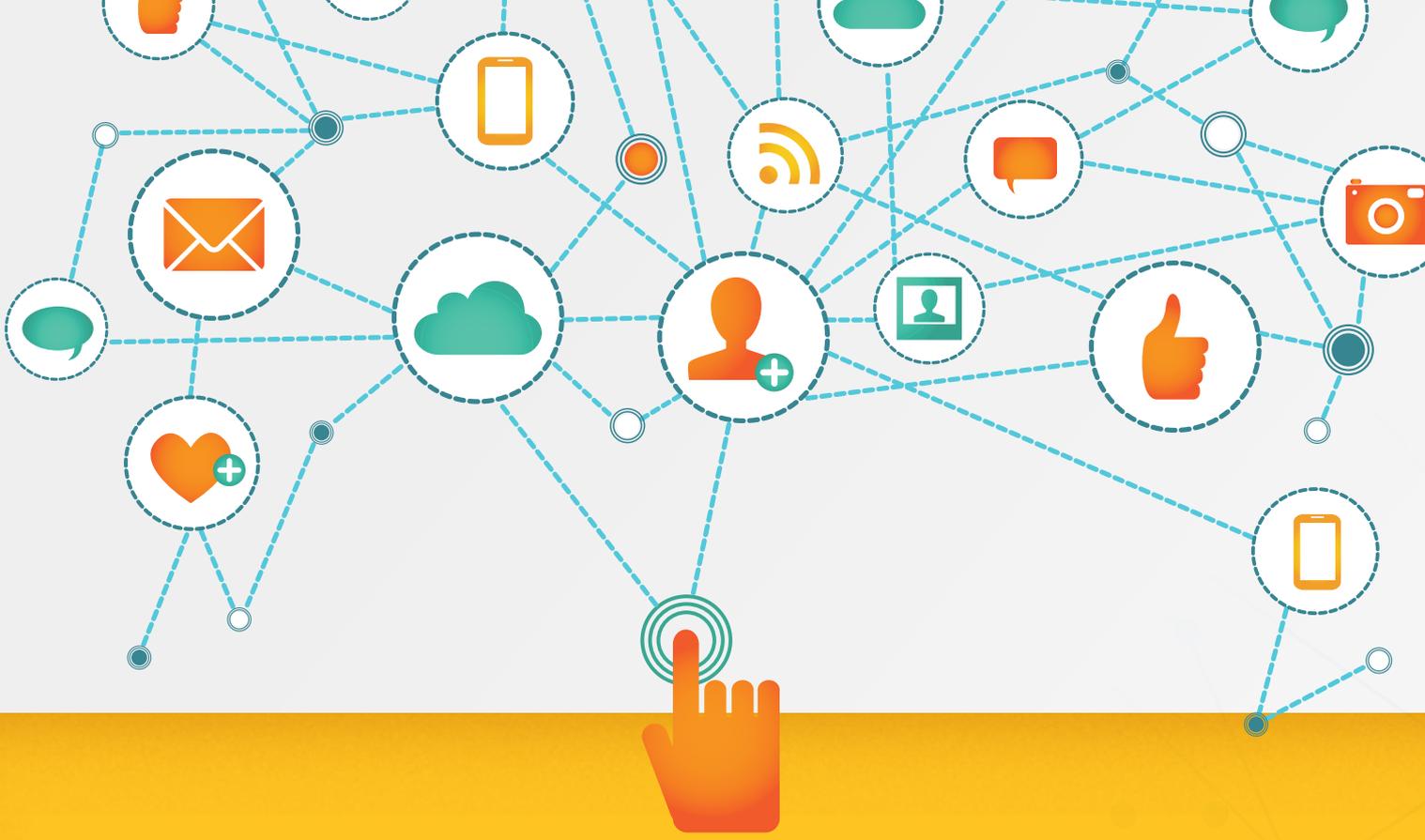
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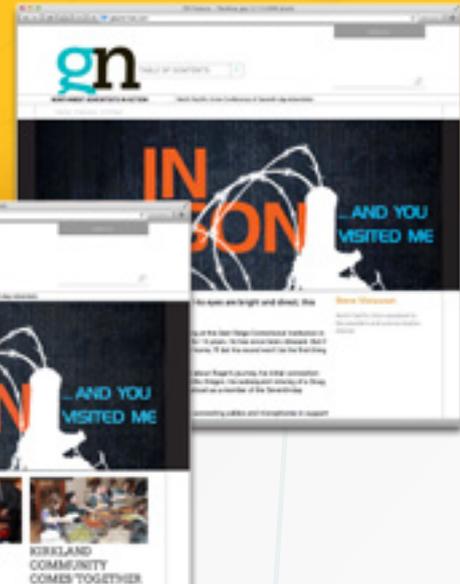
PICTURE THIS





Expanded connections for our Northwest Adventist family

As you have come to expect, the featured news stories from around the Northwest are shared in print each month, prioritized by your local conference communication team.



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The *GleanerNow* website at gleanernow.com posts news stories and information online soon after they are submitted. Your stories will no longer wait in line for a monthly print issue. Send us up-to-date stories, fresh from the event, with active, engaging photos.

New print features:



- » **PICTURE THIS** — Stories around the North Pacific Union are often best told in a picture. Even if you don't have a story to write, send us a fun and active photo that represents the most recent activity at your church, school or outreach event along with a short caption that describes the photo. Photos must be high resolution of 500KB file size or larger.
- » **INTERSECTIONS** — Here's where you'll find Northwest-wide news, reader letters, helpful bits of information and online links. Each month there'll be something unique and interesting.
- » **ENHANCED LOCAL NEWS** — Every other month your conference news section may include additional information for you and your local church, including messages from conference leaders, a calendar of upcoming events, special online links, etc.
- » **YOU SAID IT** — Do you have some personal perspectives to share on a spiritual topic? Would you like to share your personal testimony of God's love? Do you have a life-changing experience to relate? As space allows, we'll print selected submissions from our readers. Entries should be 500 to 800 words in length and include a high-res photo portrait of yourself.
- » **PERSPECTIVES** — Watch your 2014 *Gleaners* for added thought columns by regular authors. This month's issue features Seth Pierce, Puyallup (Wash.) Church pastor.

Your 2014 *Gleaner* will continue to grow as a connecting hub for Northwest Adventists. Watch for added features throughout the year,

including:



- » Dynamic advertising that allows advertisers to create their own advertisements and readers to access desired services through direct online connections — a sort of Northwest Adventist "Craigslist."
- » Submitted quotes/texts — Northwest members will be invited to send in their favorite quotes or texts each week for inclusion in *GleanerNow* and *GleanerWeekly*.
- » Northwest Adventist Mission photo/video contest — Enter to showcase what God is doing through your church or school.
- » Best Essay Contest — Send your thoughts on an assigned topic for an opportunity to be featured in our monthly You Said It section.
- » And the list of opportunities will continue to grow.

Stories and events will enter social media as they happen — are you signed up as a *Gleaner* Facebook friend? Are you following the *Gleaner* on Twitter?



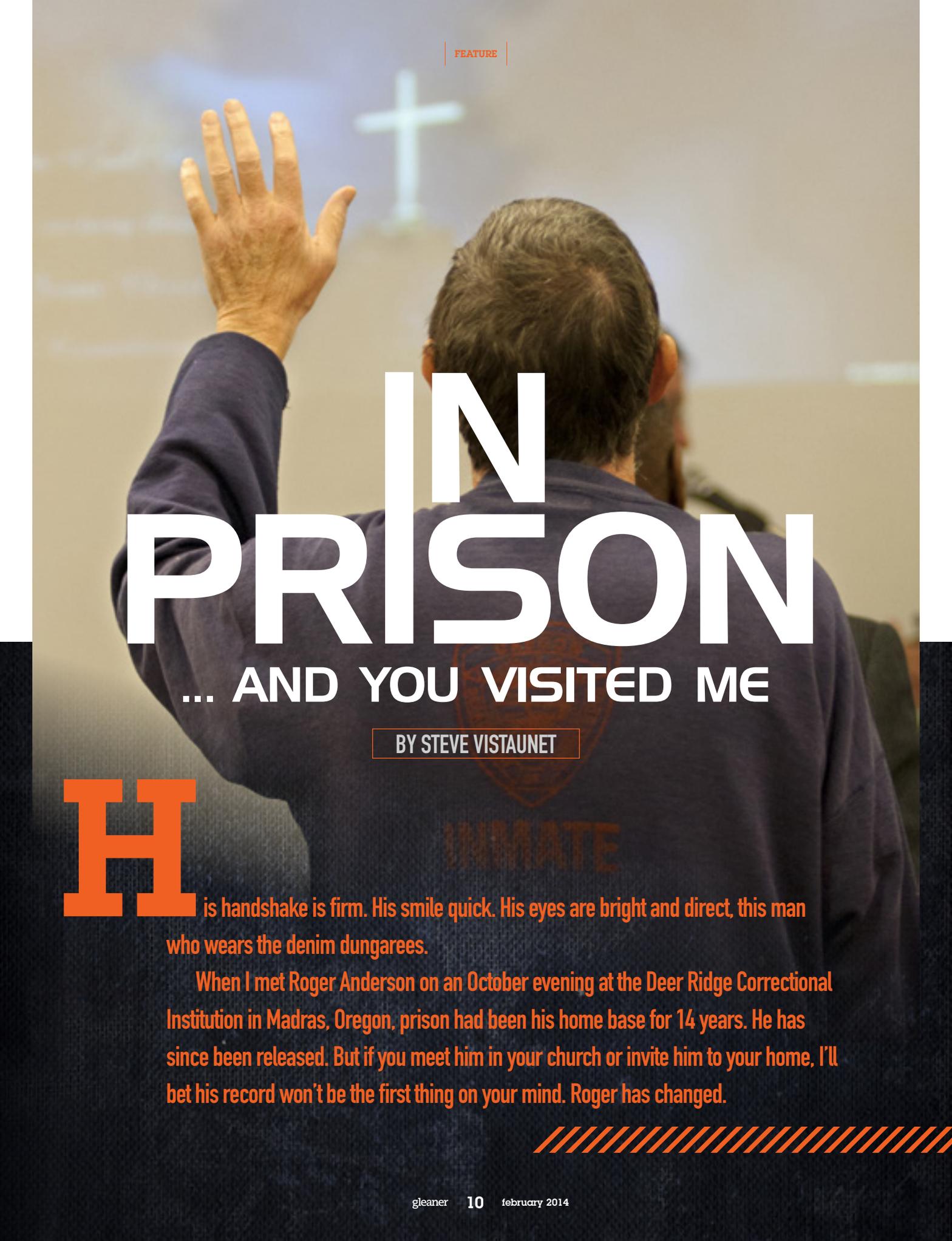
GleanerWeekly — This award-winning synopsis of the top stories of interest to Northwest Adventists is sent to your email inbox once each week, or as breaking news happens. Sign up now online at gleanerweekly.com.

SIGN UP NOW



Join us on the expanding *Gleaner* hub as we work together on God's special mission to the Northwest.





IN PRISON

... AND YOU VISITED ME

BY STEVE VISTAUNET

H

is handshake is firm. His smile quick. His eyes are bright and direct, this man who wears the denim dungarees.

When I met Roger Anderson on an October evening at the Deer Ridge Correctional Institution in Madras, Oregon, prison had been his home base for 14 years. He has since been released. But if you meet him in your church or invite him to your home, I'll bet his record won't be the first thing on your mind. Roger has changed.

After the Friday evening services held at the Deer Ridge Correctional Institution in Madras, Oregon, prison ministry leaders gather with some of the men in attendance, a group that feels more like family each week.



During that Friday evening meeting, I learn a little about Roger's journey, his initial connection to Pastor Kevin Wilfley at another facility in Umatilla, Oregon, his subsequent viewing of a Doug Batchelor video series, and his decision to be baptized as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

But he doesn't have much time to talk. He's busy connecting cables and microphones in support of a weekly gathering sponsored by the local Adventist prison ministry group.

What I see is more akin to a family reunion than a meeting. Ron and Lucy Wood, Madras Church members, stand at the entrance to the room with warm, welcoming smiles, making each inmate feel like a long-lost son. Phil Kohfeld is there too, organizing his thoughts as he prepares to lead a brief Sabbath School lesson study.

Bev Schultz has rallied this volunteer crew as she often does on Friday evenings. Six years ago, this type of regular ministry would have been far from her mind. But at a women's retreat at Eagle Crest in central Oregon, she was impressed to be anointed for service. Then one Sabbath at church someone stood up and said, "The inmates in our prisons need our prayers." And suddenly that earlier anointing and the immediate need came together in Bev's mind as a call from God. She organized a small group to begin Sabbath School and church services at the Madras facility. They've been going strong ever since.

As I look on at the Friday evening gathering, nearly 40 inmates begin with musical praise and worship. This could just as easily be at your local church —

if denim dungarees were required dress. When the music comes to an end, prayer requests begin. This is where it becomes obvious that, although some may call them inmates, prisoners, offenders, these are God's children, in need of His love and mercy, eager to praise Him for blessings, not ashamed to ask Him for help. One man voices his gratefulness that he was able to witness to someone and encourage them that day; another is thankful that others who are around him in his unit are also Christians. When one young man volunteers with trembling voice that his wife is struggling with being all alone, a fellow inmate immediately volunteers to pray out loud for this fellow brother in Christ and his young wife.

Is it unusual to feel that the Christian mission and message is somehow more raw and real here in this setting than in our local churches? Is it wrong to wonder what our regular services would be like if stripped of display and pretense? Here, in this penitent penitentiary gathering, there are few make-believe Christians. Here it is obvious that all have fallen short. Here it is clear that the foot of the cross means level ground for all.

That's why Phil's Sabbath School lesson hits home with the theme "From Fractured to Friendship." Along with the other volunteers, he's developed a unique bond with these men. There's no conde-

scension here — just honest conversation. "When I try to take charge of my life," Phil observes, "I get into trouble."

"You're not alone," calls out one of the men.

Alphonso McCarthy, North Pacific Union Conference vice president, is the special guest speaker for the Friday evening church service. He reminds the men that God sees value in every soul. "Jesus looked down through the tunnel of time, and He saw all of us. He saw something valuable in us. He saw joy at the end of the journey." The men listen intently, with heads nodding. This is at the very core of their hope.

Bev Schultz leads the prison ministry group from the Madras Church that sponsors the Friday evening services at the nearby correctional institution.



Joy is coming sooner for some of these men than others. Some will be incarcerated for life. Others have just a few months or years to go.

And, frankly, that is the area where many of our Adventist prison ministry efforts flounder — the transition between prison life and the outside world, where former friends and old habits await. It's not easy, either, for a local church to immediately provide a supportive, nonjudgmental spiritual home for an ex-inmate. Caution is understandable. Are they truly reformed? Will they reoffend? Would they be a bad influence on the youth? It is not uncommon for Adventist inmates, released back to their home town, to feel estranged from not only their immediate family but also their church family as well.

It's indeed a frustration to Bev and other prison ministry leaders, who work closely with the spiritual journey of inmates and yet feel helpless to coordinate with their home churches to facilitate a smooth, supportive transition. In a sense, these inmates are like college students, just graduated, looking for a supportive church home that understands them and provides an appropriate avenue for ministry. Such an environment is not always easy to find. But it's critical, for during the past three years, Bev estimates the Madras facility has hosted 20 Adventist baptisms.

She is not the only one concerned about life beyond prison walls. Don Preas heads an active group of Adventist volunteers who regularly visit the Walla Walla State Penitentiary. This is home for a couple of life-sentence inmates with Adventist connections — Robert Yates and Gary Ridgway, who was labeled the Green River Killer. Here, Dan and his team members have seen nearly 100 baptisms in the past three years.

Yet Preas says the challenges for former inmates are many. Due to long incarcerations, family support often disintegrates. In addition, Preas estimates more than 90 percent of inmates have been in prison due to problems with alcohol or drugs — addictions which have plenty of enablers in regular society. “So,” Preas says, “they’ll try to come to church. If they feel a warm, caring environment and the presence of the Holy Spirit, they may continue to come.



Before his recent release, Roger Anderson (right) chats with fellow inmates during services sponsored by the prison ministries group from the Madras Church.

But if that is not present, they’ll just drift away.”

Skeptics abound, convinced that prisoners have practiced a lifetime of deceit and are skilled at playing on the good will of well-meaning Christians. The victims and families impacted by their crimes, if still alive, have ongoing physical and mental scars. Are their challenges ignored in the rush to redeem the perpetrator?

There are no simple answers here. But the thin line between harmful thoughts and harmful actions is a line against which we all struggle. When we recall that Jesus said there was more rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents than with all the righteous folk, it reminds us that the priorities of His kingdom are often counterintuitive to ours. The kingdom of heaven is all about redemption.

That's why prison ministries teams throughout the Northwest and beyond deserve our thanks and our prayers. Tag along sometime as they go behind barbed wire and brick walls to provide the human touch of a God who cares about sinners — a circle which includes each one of us. ■

Steve Vistaumet, Gleaner editor

**HERE, IN THIS
PENITENT
PENITENTIARY
GATHERING,
THERE ARE FEW
MAKE-BELIEVE
CHRISTIANS.**



MY STORY

KIRK GORMLEY'S TESTIMONY



With Floyd Marshall, Washington Conference prison ministries coordinator (front center), Kirk Gormley (third from left) stands with other former inmates Caleb Haney, Asa Henry and Daniel Houser.

make **no exaggerations** when I declare to you that I deserve the second death, and only by the grace of God do I hold onto the promise that I will arise from the grave when Jesus comes for His church. You might be thinking we all deserve condemnation, and you would be right. And perhaps you would point out that Romans 8:1 promises

MY STORY

us there is “no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” Again, you would be right. But when a human being commits a crime so heinous, so contrary to the laws of God and man, sometimes we’re left with a couple of difficult questions. Specifically, “If he says he’s saved, how could he do such a thing?” And, “Is there hope for this man?”

People no doubt once asked such questions about me, and it is my joy to affirm that Christ still changes lives. Hope reigns. Transformation is a reality.

I’m not going to horrify you with the details of the crime I committed in 2004, except to say it was violent, it was unspeakably cruel, and it was drunkenly and savagely perpetrated against a Christian woman whom I had once vowed to love, honor and cherish.

True to the coward I was that day, I fled the scene in our 1997 Honda Accord. A couple of hours later, unwilling to face the legal and personal consequences, I drove the car off a Mount Rainier cliff. I blasted through a wooden guardrail, unsure of my eternal destiny but certain that my wretched life on Earth would end in a few seconds. Much to my astonishment and chagrin, I survived.

Three days later I was transported from a Seattle hospital to the Pierce County Jail in Tacoma, where I began what turned out to be eight years and nine months of continuous incarceration.

Unbeknownst to me, a destiny-altering seven months were about to begin. I had begun to hear inmate reports of a unit within the jail that was referred to as the God Pod. I put in for a transfer, and within days I was in the midst of 29 other men who were seeking God to

various extents. The ministry of Jesus Christ as manifested through the God Pod was a revelation. Pastors came in from the local community to preach and pray with us, group Bible studies were held throughout the days and evenings, and lives were transformed. After years of talking the Christian talk and putting on airs, I fully surrendered my life to the One who created it. Those seven months put me on firm spiritual footing. But I still had 98 months to serve in state prison. Would my spiritual awakening stick?

Yes, it would. And to ensure that it would, God soon brought the Seventh-day Adventist Church into my life. My first prison stop was a seven-week stay at Shelton, Washington, where one day I pulled a battered copy of *The Desire of Ages* from a small book box. I had never heard of this author, E.G. White, but was astonished by her spiritual and biblical depth.

By February 2005 I was at the Airway Heights facility in Spokane, Washington. One weekend afternoon, looking for something to do, I attended my first Adventist service. After six months in Spokane, I was transferred to a corporate-run prison in Appleton, Minnesota. Coinciding with my arrival, the tiny Artichoke Lake Church began to come behind the walls, bringing the gospel to inmates

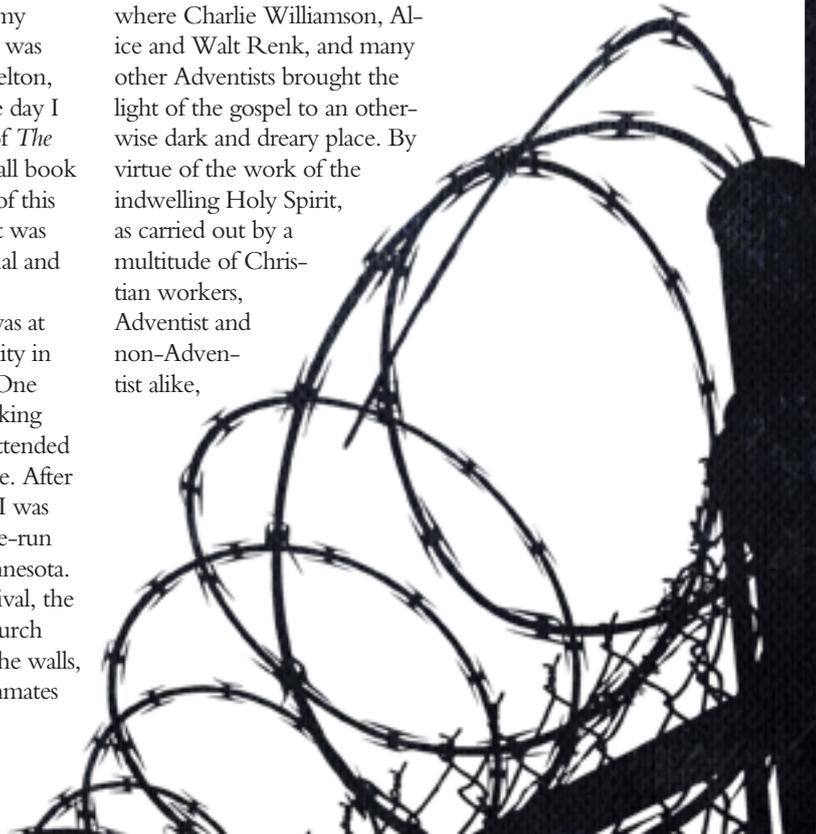
twice a week. As a result of the Lord working through faithful servants my faith and commitment deepened, and it was there that I joined the Adventist Church in 2006. As Paul implores, “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,” and I continued to experience a transformation of heart and thought that comes only through the Word of God and the cleansing power of the cross. Through the atoning death of Jesus, I was having life and having it abundantly, even in prison.

After 52 months in Minnesota, I said goodbye to my Adventist friends from Appleton and was transferred back to Washington. I spent 16 months at the Stafford Creek facility in Aberdeen, where I became involved in yet another Adventist ministry. Through the loving mentoring of people like Tom and Pam Stone, my relationship with Jesus continued to thrive. My final 23 months of prison were carried out at Monroe, where Charlie Williamson, Alice and Walt Renk, and many other Adventists brought the light of the gospel to an otherwise dark and dreary place. By virtue of the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit, as carried out by a multitude of Christian workers, Adventist and non-Adventist alike,

my first days of incarceration as a lost soul were transformed into 3,201 days of walking with Jesus while in prison.

I was released to Seattle on Feb. 20, 2013, and through David Grams the Lord led me to Ballard Adventist Fellowship in Ballard, Washington, a friendly little church that worships and serves Jesus under the ministry of Jesse and Brenda Ferguson. My fellow members know I served time in prison, and many of them know the gruesome details.

They have welcomed me from the start, showing me nothing but love, acceptance and inclusion. I have been entrusted with teaching Sabbath School, and they have invited me into their homes. I even have a key to our church, which is open on Sunday afternoons to hold Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Praise be to God, the final time I drank was that dark and evil day of my crime in 2004. ■





Familias de la Iglesia en Caldwell, un sueño misionero hecho realidad.

SEMBRADORES DE IGLESIAS

“El método evangelístico más eficaz debajo del cielo es sembrar iglesias,” (C. Peter Wagner).

La única confianza para seguir el mandato de “Id y haced discípulos” de Mateo 28, es la autoridad de Jesús que precede a la orden apostólica; Él dijo: “Se me ha dado toda autoridad” (v. 18). Y bajo ella, la iglesia de Nampa en Idaho, abrazó el mandato de “Id” a la ciudad de Caldwell, a establecer una iglesia en una población hispana de casi diecisiete mil habitantes.

COMO EL APÓSTOL PABLO ...

Él no se quedaba mucho tiempo para acomodarse en una congregación. Confiaba en los líderes de las nuevas congregaciones, y los capacitaba para avanzar con otros, a nuevos territorios (Hechos 14:21; 15:35).

ASÍ COMENZÓ ...

Las hojas de los árboles lucían sus colores poéticos. Corría el otoño del año 2012. En una fresca tarde de sábado, se les presentó a los ancianos

líderes de las cinco zonas de la iglesia, el modelo de plantar iglesias como método eficaz de evangelización. Meses después del trabajo de motivación de los líderes, los sembradores dispuestos a llevar “la preciosa semilla” (Salmo 126:6), fueron trece familias de la zona 3, residentes todos en Caldwell, su nuevo sueño misionero.

Primer paso: Iniciar relaciones. En los primeros seis meses limpiaron la casa de una abuelita con carencias, ayudaron a una persona con necesidades especiales, repartieron canastas de alimentos, sirvieron bebida caliente con pan en pleno invierno y repartieron literatura.

Segundo paso: Formar un núcleo misionero. Mientras se atendía a la comunidad, su líder Marcos Calderón junto al pastor, visitaron los hogares de los miembros de la zona para conocer a quienes tomarían la decisión voluntaria de ser plantadores de iglesia.



Eduardo Rieques, líder de la zona 4, entrega a los ancianos de Caldwell, un bello púlpito hecho por el hermano Salvador Leiva.

Tercer paso: Establecer la iglesia. Después de celebrar reuniones basadas en el libro de Daniel, a cargo del pastor Marvin Gómez, evangelista visitante de la República de Nicaragua, ocurrió el alumbramiento. El sábado 14 de diciembre de 2013, la iglesia despidió con fervor misionero a su nueva hija. Ese día las otras zonas entregaron regalos a la nueva congregación, como apoyo a la visión misionera.

Para la iglesia de Nampa en Idaho el mandato de “Id y

haced discípulos” fue abrazado con autoridad y la Iglesia de Caldwell, ahora es una realidad. Hoy tú también puedes abrazar ese mandato.

Jose Francisco Altamirano, pastor y coordinador de la obra Hispana en Idaho Conference

RELATIONSHIP MINISTRY EXTENDS BEYOND PRISON WALLS

When Steve Steenmeyer accepted the call to lead the Hillside O'Malley Church's correctional ministry in Anchorage, he did so with the intent of instituting correspondence Bible studies

Jesse enrolled in DBS in the fall of 2012 at the Anchorage Jail. He continued with the studies when he was transferred to Colorado. Jesse was then transferred back to a facility in Alaska. New requests for DBS studies were frequently received because of Jesse's testimony.

He also influenced his fiancée, Jeena, to attend Bible studies at Hillside O'Malley. Jesse was transferred to a treatment center in Anchorage and then to a halfway house, which happened to be walking distance to the Northside Church, and they began attending Sabbath services.

Jesse was released on Dec. 7, 2013. On that very morning Jesse and Jeena walked into a Sabbath School class at the O'Malley Church. They are

meeting with the pastor in preparation for their marriage. Jeena is requesting baptism.

Tina Steenmeyer journeyed with a friend, Jayne, to Colorado in 2012 to meet with Jayne's incarcerated son, Isaac, who had enrolled in DBS and accepted Jesus. Jayne had weekly visits with her son via online video. Jayne's heart melted as her son shared what Jesus was doing in his life and how he was witnessing to inmates.

Isaac led Jayne to Christ during an online chat. Jayne now attends Hillside O'Malley Church and continues to experience life-changing miracles. Isaac was transferred back to Alaska, where he is to be released in 2017, and he desires a future in evangelism.

In the fall of 2012, Will



TINA STEENMEYER

(From left) Will with Steve Vicaro, Hillside O'Malley Church pastor.

enrolled in DBS at the Anchorage Jail. He was transferred to halfway houses and frequently wrote letters concerning doctrinal beliefs. He was released in November 2013 and that very week attended the O'Malley Church, where he is also a regular on Wednesday evening. With extensive experience as an audio/visual technician in the rock music industry, he now desires to utilize his background with Christian evangelism tours.

Steenmeyer was recently asked by the Alaska Conference to lead out in expanding this Spirit-empowered ministry. With more than 800 enrollees, an average of 10 new students weekly and 80 to 100 lessons processed weekly, Alaska is grateful for having been led to a means that allows the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's powerful Word to do the work.

Steven Steenmeyer, Alaska Conference correctional ministries coordinator



TINA STEENMEYER

Jeena and Jesse have both found a new life in Christ.

in association with the Alaska Conference Discover Bible School (DBS), Voice of Prophecy's Bible study guides.

Christ's call in Matt. 28:19-20 instructs us to make disciples and to teach all things. This requires relationships. DBS became an avenue for opening up those opportunities. Several personal victories have begun to bear that out.



TINA STEENMEYER

(From left) Steve Steenmeyer visits with Jeena, Jesse and Jayne.

BVAS SUPPORTS MOZAMBIQUE SCHOOL

Each year during the holiday season, Boise Valley Adventist School (BVAS) families support an outreach in the community. Past outreach ministries have included adopting needy families, collecting items for Toys for Tots, contributing to the area food bank and giving to the local rescue mission. This year, after receiving information regarding needs at a sister school in Africa, the staff at BVAS decided to adopt the school as their outreach project.

Research about the school revealed that the Munguluni Mission School in Mozambique is a place where Adventist education is training the teachers, pastors and leaders of tomorrow. The families in Mozambique survive on 40 cents a day, which makes it extremely difficult for parents to provide school supplies, let alone clothes, books and even lunches for their children.

BVAS participated in Project: Shoe Box to provide necessary hygiene and school supplies to students in Africa. Students were simply asked to retrieve a plastic shoebox from the school, pack it with items from a specified list and return it to be shipped to the Munguluni School. Families had the

option to donate funds to help with shipping costs rather than fill a box.

Several school board and local church members also supported the outreach project, and through combined efforts 31 shoeboxes were filled. Many parents said that this was an easy and inexpensive way for the students to get involved and noticed the students had fun finding items to fill the boxes.

Through this opportunity, students and their families were able to provide much-needed supplies African families simply cannot afford. In addition to the North Pacific Union Conference mission to change lives through education and demonstrate God's love to all, the BVAS mission was to give students an opportunity to experience a project where they could help students just like themselves. And, as an added incentive, the African students will be filmed as they receive and open their shoeboxes so BVAS students will be able to see the direct results of their efforts.

Several noted that it was a great feeling to model the joy of serving and giving to others less fortunate. The project brought to life the words, "There will always be poor people in the



Boise Valley Adventist School students and families help fill 31 shoeboxes with much-needed supplies for a sister school in Mozambique.

land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy" (Deut. 15:11).

Melanie Lawson, Boise Valley Adventist School teacher

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The Montana Conference staff honors Ruth Stanton at her retirement party.

LONGTIME MONTANA EMPLOYEE RETIRES

It isn't unusual for people to leave one workforce for another or even retire, but few leave who have left decades of positive impact upon the faculty and students of Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) in Bozeman and the employees of the Montana Conference.

Ruth Stanton, administrative assistant to the president, treasury and trust services, officially retired Jan. 1. While the Montana Conference rejoices with her as she enters her new mission field, her work, gentle spirit and personage will be deeply missed.

Right after graduating from La Sierra University in 1972, Stanton and her husband, Dave, came to work at MEA. Stanton put her degree in consumer-related sciences secondary education to good use as the home economics teacher, while Dave taught industrial arts.

Penny (Anderson) Roberts, class of 1975, was one of Stanton's students. "I was always amazed at how much knowledge she had as a home ec teacher," she says. "I had a good background in sewing, but she taught me even more.

I wish students today had someone like Ruth to teach those things. She has a real gift." During this time Stanton also taught freshman English for several years.

Beginning in 1979, Stanton took several years off from teaching to be a full-time mom to their son, Jeff, returning to MEA in the fall of 1985. In addition to home economics, Stanton taught U.S. and world history, freshman Bible and current world affairs — and also worked for a time as adminis-

trative assistant to Karen (Ballard) Johnson, MEA principal.

"Every day she had a smile on her face even when it meant on her face even when it meant hand-addressing all the envelopes for a donation appeal," Johnson says. During her years at MEA, Stanton crossed paths with more than 1,000 students and faculty.

The Stantons left for Hawaii in the summer of 1994, where she worked for Konawaena High School as a home economics teacher and her husband taught auto me-

chanics. Homesick for Montana and MEA, the family returned a year later.

Stanton became the part-time secretary to the conference president, a job that grew to full-time work. During her 18 years at the Montana Conference office she worked in three different buildings with three presidents, five treasurers, five accountants, three education superintendents, three education secretaries, three trust services directors and more than 50 pastors.

Stanton says she is looking forward to not driving 30 miles to and from work each day. Her first project will be refinishing her kitchen cabinets. Then she plans to travel, visit national parks, and do needlework and crafts — all the things she hasn't had time to do in the past 30 years.

Stanton has been a good and faithful servant, and the Montana Conference staff hope she enjoys her retirement.

Kristi Rich, Montana Conference accountant



Ruth Stanton and her husband, Dave, are looking forward to her retirement.

SONSHINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ADOPTS, CLEANS PARK

When Florence, Ore., opened the adoption process this summer for people and organizations to take on responsibility for cleaning and maintaining local parks, Sunshine Christian School responded, requesting “ownership” of Singing Pines Park’s playground, parking lot and walking paths.

Every first Wednesday of the month since school began, students, faculty and several board members have taken more than an hour to make improvements and spruce up the park near Kingwood and 15th streets.

Each month students have combed the paths and the accessible underbrush, from Singing Pines to Miller Park, returning each time with bags of garbage — mainly cans, bottles, clothing and remnants of fast-food meals.

Mark Durbin, Florence parks supervisor, delivered several cubic yards of sand in October 2013 to the park. Students leveled the ground and improved the look of and safety around the play structure.

Students planted more than 100 flower bulbs in November around the park’s perimeter in hopes of brightening up the park this spring, when

plans also call for painting the play structure.

“We see this partnership with the city as a great fit for our school’s community — kids, playgrounds, community service — and can lead to real-life applications through the academic lessons we extrapolate out of it,” says Leisa Buller, Sunshine Christian School’s principal and teacher. “For example, an applied mathematics lesson could come from measuring the park and learning its square footage. Then we could calculate how many cubic yards it would take to resurface the play area in two inches of wood chips. We can learn how much paint it takes to cover the play structure, how much paint costs, how weather affects wood and paint, what colors are complementary, and write a story about our experience. We’d cover math, economics, science, art and English composition all from one trip to the park.”

“Life principles, like community service, go hand-in-hand with rigorous academics. Learning to navigate the world with respect —

toward others and for self — leads to confidence and higher academic achievement,” says Nathan Large, school board chairman and a former student of the school before it closed in the mid-1980s. “Much of that respect and confidence comes from the biblical principle of service over selfishness. It’s part of what we teach and why our students are doing well.”

Sunshine Christian School is open to all faiths and backgrounds for grades one to eight and partners with Sunshine Kids Preschool and Childcare, a state-certified

and DHS-approved program open to children ages three to six. Both schools are accepting applications for the second half of the school year.

For more information about Sunshine Christian School, call 541-997-5909. For information on Sunshine Kids Preschool and Childcare, call 541-997-5025.

Scott Steward, Florence Church member



The students of Sunshine Christian School adopted and worked to clean up the Singing Pines playground, parking lot and walking paths.

COQUILLE CHURCH PARTICIPATES IN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT

Operation Christmas Child is a worldwide children's project that uses simple gift-filled shoeboxes containing school supplies, toys, necessities and notes of encouragement to let hurting children know God loves them.

For the second year, Darwin Knight and Sally McSherry from the Coquille Church joined Samaritan's Purse to gather boxes in November for this worthwhile purpose.

Operation Christmas Child reached a major milestone in 2012 — delivering shoeboxes to more than 100 million children since the project began in 1993.

Millions of hurting children who are victims of poverty, natural disaster, war, terrorism and famine receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. For some of these boys and girls, it is the first



Sabbath School members help gather shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child.

gift they have ever received. Through the power of a simple gift and the message of hope through Jesus Christ, these children learn that they are loved and not forgotten.

Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts will be hand-delivered to children in more than 100 countries on six continents. Boxes from Oregon will go to the Philippines.

The Coquille Church put together 173 shoeboxes, and the Bandon Church put together 29 boxes. As an area collection point, the Coquille Church collected 521 boxes — up from 305 in 2012.

Sally McSherry, Coquille Church communication leader



Sally McSherry and Darwin Knight serve as Coquille Church's coordinators for Operation Christmas Child.



Young and old alike help sort food donations after a special Thanksgiving service at McMinnville Church.

MCMINNVILLE MEMBERS OPEN PANTRIES, POCKETBOOKS

McMinnville Church members opened their pantries and pocketbooks for the 15th year in a row to feed the less fortunate in their community through a special service held the Sabbath before Thanksgiving.

During the annual service, food donations are deposited in the foyer until the beginning of the church service, when the children of the congregation move it to the front of the sanctuary. After a simple potluck lunch of soup and sandwiches, the congregation gathers in the sanctuary once again to sort the donations and fill decorated boxes for those in need.

Names of families in need are provided by church members and local community agencies. The number of families assisted each year varies, but, like the loaves and fishes Jesus blessed, there is always enough.

This year there were

some special guests. One of the recipient families accepted an invitation to attend the Thanksgiving service. The mother had mentioned that her four children really needed shoes, so Jerry Joubert, McMinnville Church pastor, presented those as part of the service. The family stayed for lunch and hap-



The Thanksgiving food basket donations are gathered in the front of the McMinnville sanctuary during the special service.

pily participated in sorting and distributing the Thanksgiving boxes, gaining a double blessing of receiving and giving.

Michelle McMillen, McMinnville Church member

FATHER, HUSBAND MAKES RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

He pulls headphones out of his plug-pierced ears and begins to tell his story. “I like rap,” says Ken Acquin, a member of Pleasant Valley Church in Happy Valley and the father of a Portland Adventist Academy sophomore, Anderson Acquin. “But it’s Christian rap.”

The man knows his music. He was one of the original Stryper fans and also has a thing for Petra. But don’t let his tough exterior and love of hard rock and rap fool you. He also loves the Gaither Vocal Band, old hymns, Native American flute music and gospel music.

More importantly, he loves God.

Acquin was recently baptized at Pleasant Valley Church. Despite being a regular attendee for several years, Acquin says he was living a life far from God.

Acquin was raised a Christian and as a teen was baptized with his mother, a faithful woman to this day. But life happened. Acquin brought his Bible with him when he went to the Gulf War as a Marine. “But if you asked me how much I opened it after boot camp, well, it wasn’t very many times,” he says. “I began to party and live a hard life.”

Life after the Marines wasn’t any better. “I contin-

ued to make poor choices that hurt my family,” says Acquin. “Thankfully, I married a patient woman. Many times I found myself in tears thinking that this wasn’t who I was supposed to be. I knew I needed to be a man my boys look up to and to see a man that loves God.”

In and out of many churches over the years, Acquin went through the motions but never had a relationship with Jesus. His wife, Sylvia, grew up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and suggested they visit one. He agreed.

It took a few more years, but thanks to supportive pastors like George Gainer and Greg Phillips, his sons’ belief in him, the faithfulness and patience of his wife of 20 years, and a sermon series and altar call by Herald Altamirano, Acquin’s heart was pierced with a love so powerful it affected every nook and cranny of his life.

“A lot of people came to my baptism,” he says. “Even friends who aren’t Christians

came to show support.” Acquin beams as he adds that his mother was there. “She said it was one of the best days of her life,” he recalls. “That meant so much to me.”

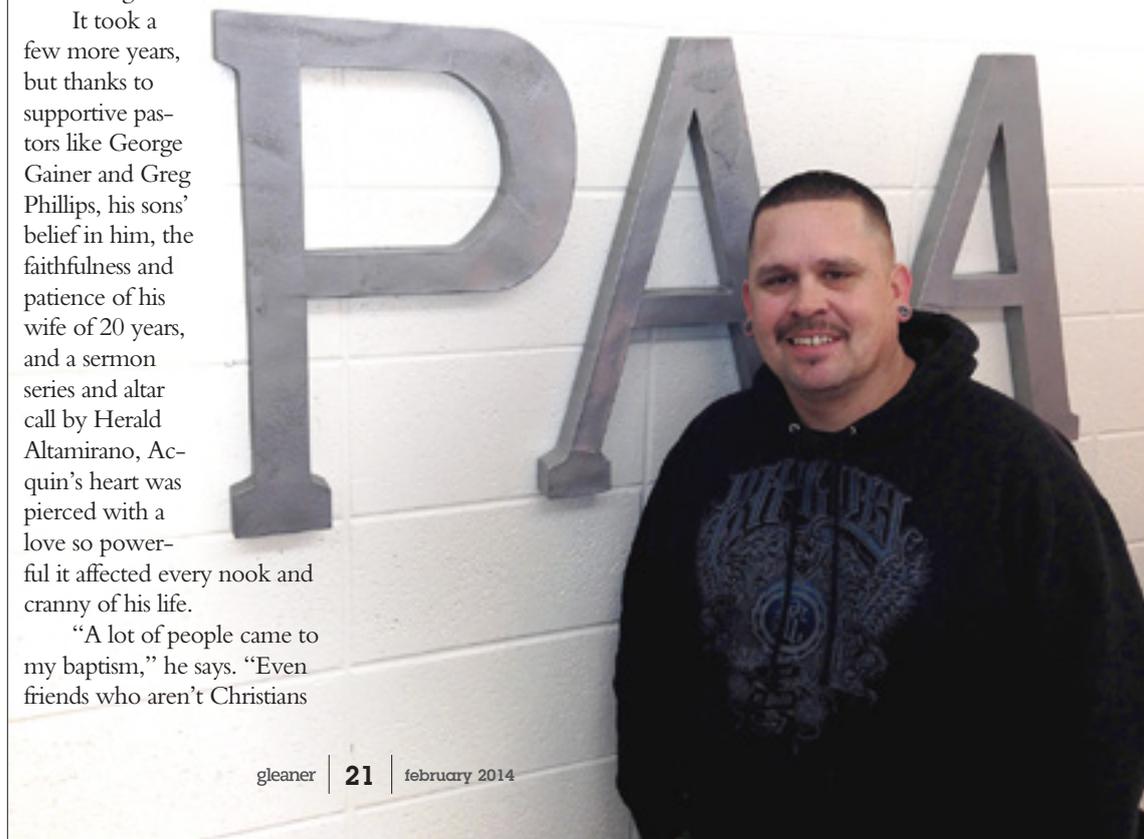
“I’m an older guy,” says Acquin, who is only in his mid-40s. “I mean I’m old for making this kind of life change. I’m stubborn and set in my ways. Change is hard. Even my pastor said it’s unusual to see a husband and father my age in the baptismal tank. Baptism is admitting I’m weak. But I am.

That song is the truth. I am weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me.”

Watch Acquin tell his story on a video interview that was aired before his baptism at glnr.in/kens-story.

Acquin’s love of music includes Native American flutes. He plays them beautifully: glnr.in/kens-flute.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent





Sharon Church members and former members celebrate their second annual Homecoming Celebration.

SHARON CHURCH CELEBRATES HOMECOMING

Following the Lord's command to "go out into the highways and hedges, and compel [them] to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23, KJV), Sharon Church celebrated its second annual Homecoming Celebration on Oct. 26–27, 2013.

The church was celebrating 67 years of serving God and its community. Many former members who have moved away came back to share in God's promises with dynamic singing, life-changing prayer and the powerful Word of God.

This year's event, themed "Connecting People to the Promise," included a complete weekend of prayer, power and praise with Terry Johnson, who grew up in Sharon Church and was the featured speaker.

Bringing the Sabbath to an end was done in high fashion

with activities such as Twilight Tea, Rejuvenation Spa, bowling and a game night. As a final close to the celebration, the church family got together on Sunday morning for a brunch and fellowship, with Johnson



Terry Johnson speaks for Sharon Church's Homecoming Celebration.

sharing a final thought from the Word of God.

The Spirit of the Lord was present the entire weekend — all were blessed by His presence.

Denise Williams, Sharon Church communication leader

COLUMBIA ADVENTIST ACADEMY PURSUES FULL-TIME PHILANTHROPY

One of Webster's definitions of philanthropy is "the desire to promote the welfare of others." And that makes the activities of this past fall at Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) in Battle Ground, Wash., a full-time philanthropic endeavor.

Time and energy were contributed early in the school year as CAA had an all-school community service day with students helping others from Yacolt, Wash., to Oregon City, Ore. This was followed by the seniors working at the Clark County Food Bank and the juniors taking a day away from classes to help the Adventist Community Services Center.

Music groups shared Christmas songs at two locations for customers at local food markets and Follow the Star in Gladstone, Ore. CAA students helped the first- and second-graders from neighboring Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School decorate cookies, sing songs and listen to stories. CAA's administration sponsored Bravo! Vancouver's free performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

CAA students used their money, in addition to time and energy, to help others. More than 390 pairs of socks were donated to help the homeless, and students filled boxes with toys and food for families in need.

The school's philanthropy goal culminated in the Celebration of Harmonious Holidays dinner, during which students, staff and community members combined forces to raise more than \$100,000 for the worthy student fund. Mackenzie Wood, a senior and devotional speaker, said it best: "God takes the gifts people give and stretches them into ways they are needed. Thank you for investing in me and my classmates. Thank you for making an investment with great returns that will last throughout eternity."

Matthew says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." May we all live philanthropically from the heart.

Larry Hiday, CAA Gleaner correspondent



CAA's senior class stands around a pallet in the Clark County Food Bank.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY CHURCH NAMES SENIOR PASTOR

Alex Bryan has accepted the invitation to once again lead the Walla Walla University Church. Bryan will return to serve as the church's senior pastor.

"Certainly, I am among those who will welcome Pastor Alex and his family back into this community," says Dave Thomas, chairman of the church's search committee and also dean of the School of Theology. "I happily recall the joyous and uplifting church ethos that was so strong when he was here and anticipate it will become very evident again upon his return."

Bryan served as senior pastor of the University Church from 2009 to June 2013. During his tenure, he expanded ministry programs and led renewal projects to commemorate the church's 50th anniversary. He also taught university classes and served as an advisor to the president for vision and strategy.

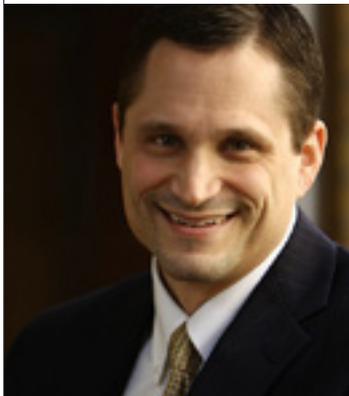
Bryan has been serving as president of Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio, since his departure from the University Church.

Bryan's date of return to the University Church pulpit is yet to be determined.

"I am delighted that Dr. Alex Bryan has accepted the invitation to return to serve as the senior pastor of our Walla Walla University Church," says Paul Hoover, president of the Upper Columbia Conference president. "God has obviously

been doing something special with and in Dr. Bryan clarifying his calling to pastoral ministry."

Bryan, and his wife, Nicole, have two children, Audrey and William. Nicole, a WWU alumna, has taught for WWU's School of Social Work and Sociology. She has also served as a mentor in the Freshman Success Program.



Alex Bryan

Bryan graduated from Southern Adventist University (Collegedale, Tenn.) in 1993 with majors in history and religion. He then earned his Master of Divinity from Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Mich.) in 1996 and his doctoral degree in ministry from George Fox University (Newberg, Ore.) in 2009. He is also the author of *The Green Cord Dream*, which explores the purpose and possibility for Adventist Christianity in the 21st century.

Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference communication director



Milton-Stateline Adventist School students help the school raise spirit and funds with a talent show and silent auction.

MILTON-STATELINE ADVENTIST SCHOOL HOLDS TALENT SHOW AND SILENT AUCTION

Several hundred people packed into the Milton-Stateline Adventist School in Milton-Freewater, Ore., for an evening of entertainment. Each of the 40 participants auditioned for a spot in the school talent show. The youngest performer was four years old, while the eldest participants were eighth-graders.



Students perform during the Milton-Stateline Adventist School Talent Show.

The evening was a joint effort between parents, community sponsors and school staff. Lloyd Perrin, Milton Church pastor, was an excellent master of ceremonies. The talent show together with a baked food sale and silent auction raised \$1,400 for the school.

The evening was a happy surprise of a wide range of talent offered to an attentive and appreciative audience. There were piano players, singers, gymnasts, actors, a photography slide show and a balancing act.

The students who participated gained more confidence from performing to a large audience, and the whole school benefited by building school spirit.

Barbara Lepiane, Milton-Stateline Adventist School secretary/treasurer

Richard Kurtz, Milton Church outreach coordinator, shakes hands with the officer.



LLOYD PERRIN

HANDSHAKE TURNS INTO SHARING OPPORTUNITY

Richard Kurtz, Milton Church (Milton-Freewater, Ore.) outreach coordinator, was visiting a friend in the hospital. On his way out, he noticed a security officer walking down the hall toward him. Kurtz felt impressed to shake the man's hand, so he stuck out his hand and with a smile said, "How are you doing?"

The officer returned the handshake and after some conversation asked Kurtz what he did. Kurtz answered, "I share with people about Jesus, and I am an outreach coordinator for my church."

"Wow, this is an answer to prayer," said the officer. "I have been looking for someone to

enhance my walk with God. I feel there is something missing." He mentioned that he was in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and in recovery but felt drawn to dig deeper. He wanted to learn to share his new discoveries with others.

Kurtz invited him to attend a community church planned in Yantis Park in Milton-Freewater in three weeks. "I'll be there," the officer promised. And he was.

The church service consisted of testimonies and a talk, "All About Jesus." After the service he spoke to Kurtz and said, "This is what I was looking for. I want to witness about Jesus and get to know Him more." So they made arrangements to meet the following

Monday to discuss what he could do to share Jesus.

"The officer was a Lutheran [and] wanted to know if he could witness door to door like I do since we weren't in the same church," explains Kurtz. "I told him it's not a problem, but as we discussed how I did door-to-door approaches, I stated that perhaps he should familiarize himself with the studies we hand out to others, so when we give the studies we can be on the same page."

The officer agreed that the plan made sense. So Kurtz gave him a set of *In His Word* studies. They have been studying these for several weeks. In one of the sessions, they came upon the Sabbath issue. The officer said he was upset because he had

been taught Sunday was the Sabbath.

He wondered how ministers could so blatantly tell him otherwise. The officer now understands the seventh-day Sabbath is the true day of worship. "He has been attending church, and he is really excited about sharing his new found faith with others," reports Kurtz. "He wants to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And all as a result of sticking out your hand to others to say 'hi.' God is awesome."

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication department administrative assistant

ALL NATIONS CENTER CELEBRATES BAPTISM

It was a high Sabbath at All Nations Center in Wapato, Wash., for Baldomar Zamudio. Donna Harding, junior leader, and Zamudio's mother, Blanca, spoke of Zamudio's love of Jesus and his spiritual growth. Zamudio talked about those who had helped him in his decision. Then he was baptized by Steve Huey. Nov. 16, 2013, will be remembered as the rebirth-day for Baldomar Zamudio.

Anne Lamberton, All Nations Center Church communication leader



Steve Huey with Baldomar Zamudio.

MOSES LAKE TUMBLEWEEDS SPREAD SEEDS FOR JESUS



The Moses Lake Tumbleweeds Adventurers hit local streets to collect canned food for the local food bank and the church's Thanksgiving basket outreach.

A chilly night in October found tumbleweeds scattered over the streets of Moses Lake, Wash. — not spiky, prickly plants, of course, but cheerful, energetic Adventurers spreading seeds of love for Jesus. Carrying sacks and pulling wagons they eagerly knocked on doors and asked for canned food contributions for the Moses Lake Food Bank and the Moses Lake Church's Thanksgiving basket outreach.

"The kids were very excited to help collect food for people who don't have enough. Even the little three- and four-year-olds wanted to be the ones to talk at the door," says Joanne Thomas, Adventurer instructor. "People responded very positively to kids wanting to help other people." Several groups

didn't have a single house turn them away empty-handed.

It was hard to get the kids to stop, and leaders had to drag them back to the cars because they kept wanting to do "just one more street." The 14 Adventurers and seven adult helpers collected more than 250 cans of food in about an hour. "It was great," says Louise Olmstead, Adventurer instructor. "The Adventure club members were the leaders, knocking on the doors and letting the members of our community know the purpose of our mission."

The following week several Adventurers asked, "Can we go collect cans again? Please?"

Marta Beaubien, Moses Lake Adventurer Club director

PEND OREILLE VALLEY ADVENTIST SCHOOL REOPENS

After a year's hiatus, Pend Oreille Valley Adventist School (POVAS) in Oldtown, Idaho, has reopened this school year with 13 students in grades one through eight led by head teacher Angela Fleck and her assistant, Debbie Nichols.

The school board helped remodel the upstairs classrooms, provide additional computers, rejuvenate the landscaping and play area, and upgrade the school driveway. Volunteers help in the custodial, classroom aide, PE, craft, math tutoring and technology areas.

The school raised money with the Haystack Shack, an annual fundraiser at the Pend Oreille County Fair. A record number of people attended the November Fall Festival, which

raised \$1,200 to help the school gym meet occupancy code requirements. Other sources of income for the school include Newport (Wash.) Adventist Community Services and the POVAS school store.

The school held its Christmas program, called The Christmas Story, on Dec. 19, 2013, to a full crowd at the Newport Church. Costumed students sang Christmas songs interspersed with Biblical narration. They also performed "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night" on handbells — a new experience for most of them.

Folks are excited that Adventist Christian education is again live and well in the Newport area.

Earl Brockeman, retired teacher



A concert, dubbed The Christmas Story, was preformed by the Pend Oreille Valley Adventist School students in December 2013 at the Newport Church.

LIVING GOD'S MISSION



For more news, events and Washington Conference information, go to washingtonconference.org.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the 59th Regular Session of the Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at Auburn Adventist Academy Church, Auburn, Washington, on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports of conference activities since the last Regular Conference Session; to elect officers, departmental directors, Conference Executive Committee, and the Board of Education for the ensuing quinquennium; 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 2 to elect the Nominating Committee for the Session, and the Nominating Committee will begin meeting on March 23.

Instructions have been sent to 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, secretary

Ever felt fearful in sharing your faith? The disciples did. The disciples were locked away in a room, trembling in fear, after the death of Jesus. Mary Magdalene came to the fearful team with the reviving news, "I have seen the Lord!"

Jesus then appeared to the fearful disciples and greeted them twice with "peace be to you" and said, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21). This mission continues today. Jesus offers us, just like the disciples, a double measure of peace and confidence as we share our faith.

Every local congregation and every Christian is sent into the world to fulfill a definite responsibility.

Our responsibility is to be worldwide witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to make disciples for the kingdom (Matt. 28:19, 20). We are to proclaim the soon return of Jesus Christ and to invite our friends to accept God's invitation for abundant and eternal life.

Our responsibility is to "let your light shine" by loving our neighbors through generous acts of kindness and compassion (Matt. 5:16). Acts of mercy help make the gospel more credible as people see and understand how a Savior's love transforms sinners into people who love God and humankind (Luke 10:25-37).

Jesus gave us, in His life, a model of living with purpose. His mission was to win salvation for all mankind, to set us free from bondage to sin, and, in the process, to reveal the true heart of God and give us hope for an eternal future.

Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. What is God calling you to do to further His mission? Are you faithfully using your time, talents and spiritual gifts to forward God's mission? We are never more like Jesus and we are never happier than when we dedicate ourselves to accomplish God's mission!

Together, let us be living examples of God's mission.



John Freedman, Washington Conference president

KIRKLAND COMMUNITY COMES 'TOGETHER FOR THANKSGIVING'

“Does it cost money?” asked a single mother.

The family photos were free — along with everything else on the Sunday before Thanksgiving at Kirkland Church. On this day each

who would like to have this day remembered.

A hot dinner provided by church members is served followed by games and activities until it is time to leave. Every year church members create about 50

food baskets to hand out with small gifts like toiletries and literature. Left-over banquet food is boxed up and given to guests to take home. They also receive blankets, clothes and even stuffed animals for the children.

Karen has come to this

dinner almost every year and usually brings five or six friends with her. “I just want you to know how much this all means to me. I have so much fun here — this is better than any Christmas I have ever had,” says Karen, as tears well up in her eyes. The church family prayed with Karen, as she is lonely, renting a room, has no family and cannot find a job.

Chan is a single mother and came with her sister and son. She has no job, and her

countenance showed such respect and gratitude for what the Kirkland members are doing for her family. A member encouraged her to go and get a family photo — “Does it cost money?” When she was told it would be free, her head lifted and she smiled.

Crissy and Sarah are single mothers and together are taking care of nine children, some adopted and some fostered. They came last year and said that the kids talked so much about the fun they had that they had to come again this year. The children squealed with delight over each stuffed toy, activity and prize.

Simon started coming to church a few months ago discouraged that he did not speak English well and slept in his tiny car or shelters, and he was afraid to ask for help. Simon was overwhelmed with the food, bags and blanket that he received.

Together for Thanksgiving is essentially this: bringing church and community together to share God’s blessings and using them to bless others.

Colleen Radke, Kirkland Church outreach leadership team leader

THE BIG PICTURE OF MINISTRY

Ministry partners in Auburn hosted the eighth year of Journey to Bethlehem. This outdoor interactive drama features 350 costumed actors and welcomed nearly 6,000 guests from the community.



Kirkland Adventist Church and Puget Sound Adventist Academy celebrated the Christmas holidays with



a musical production of Max Lucado’s *One Incredible Moment* to illuminate people and events leading to Christ’s birth.

Adventist schools in western Washington, including Skagit Adventist School in Burlington, presented Christmas



concerts for their school and church community in December. As students sang, played and performed Christmas carols, they shared about the birth of our Savior.



KERRY REUER

Kirkland Church is full of community guests and church volunteers during the Together for Thanksgiving event each November.

year, Kirkland Church opens its doors for a celebration known as Together for Thanksgiving.

Guests from the community and church arrive at 4 p.m. to find a small banquet hall decorated and ready to enjoy. While appetizers and beverages are enjoyed, children are encouraged to partake in the crafts, face painting, cookie decorating and activities prepared for them. A photographer takes photos of families and friends

LACEY COOKS HOST HOLIDAY COOKING CLASS

When Lacey Church members invited their community to join them in Tuttle Hall, next to the church, for the evenings of Nov. 12 and 19, 2013, they were pleased with the interest in holiday vegetarian and vegan cooking.

This community outreach attracted a total attendance during the two sessions of more than 80, including about 20 non-members. One community participant is now attending Sabbath church services.

In addition to church

members from area churches, several new attendees from the recent Lacey evangelistic meetings joined the cooking classes. Ronald Case, cooking school director, says, “I think that the good cooks in the Lacey Church made a positive impact for healthy living in our community.”

Another participant adds, “It was fun learning vegetarian/vegan cooking, and the samples were delicious.”

Joan Case, Lacey Church member



(From left) Cooks Jennifer Case and LaNaya Achord demonstrate vegan pumpkin pie while helpers distribute samples to attendees of the Lacey Holiday Vegetarian/Vegan Cooking School in November.

ARACELY ARJONA



Monroe Church ministry leaders are following the ministry model of Acts 2 to grow a healthy and vibrant church.

MONROE CHURCH SUCCEEDS USING ACTS 2 MINISTRY MODEL

In Acts, Luke wrote down two prominent ministry numbers: 11 disciples united in purpose became living advertisements and 3,000 people received a new experience — Christ inside me — in a single day.

Monroe Church is following the ministry model of Acts 2 (evangelism, prayer, Bible study, faith, unity and fellowship) and seeing how Christ’s method of ministry still works through the numbers 78, 268 and 8.

Let’s unpack the numbers: The number 78 represents the average score Monroe members get on the natural church development test for holistic small groups. The number 268 is the average number of people attending Monroe’s ministry groups during the week — double the Sabbath church service attendance. The number 8 is the percentage of baptisms the church has averaged over the last four years, and by God’s grace they have retained more than 85 percent.

Church leaders believe Monroe members are getting results by putting Jesus at the center of their lives. Jesus said in John 12:32, “If I am lifted up, I will draw people to Myself.” Monroe Church has ministry groups every day of the week ranging from prison ministries, finance ministries and marriage ministries to health ministries and small group Bible studies. About every three months, they have a big push at church to encourage people to join a ministry group and invite their friends too.

It took the disciples almost four years to see outward results, and Monroe is finding similar results. Beyond the numbers, Monroe Church members are seeing lives changed as new and established disciples focus on the cross of Christ. Their progress flows from time spent with Jesus and being committed and united disciples.

Marc Lien, Monroe Church pastor

REUNITING ALUMNI AND REIGNITING ADVENTIST SCHOOLS

Whether you are an alumnus of an Adventist elementary school, junior academy, academy or university, you are invited to emerge with joy to reunite and reignite your alma mater.

“**A**lle, Alle auch sind frei!” The idea was to stay hidden until the person who was “it” gave up looking. Finally, you would hear the chant, “Ollie, Ollie oxen free!” Like a flash mob, your friends would emerge, laughing joyfully. (The phrase “Ollie, Ollie oxen free” may be derived from the German “Alle, Alle auch sind frei” meaning “everyone, everyone else is also free.”)

The game is Hide and Seek. It is called “el escondite” in Spain, “machboim” in Israel and “sumbaggoggil” in Korea.

Hide and Seek was named

in the 16th century. But its origin derives back to the Garden of Eden when Adam tried to hide from God, who found him.

Not so when we play. When we don’t find everyone, we give up and call, “Ollie, Ollie oxen free.”

I have identified three reasons why people aren’t found:

- » The “looker” is preoccupied and simply doesn’t try very hard to find the “hider.”
- » The “hider” doesn’t want to be found and effectively eludes capture.
- » The game is stopped.



Recognize these Pacific Northwest leaders? Dawn Heilbrun, Auburn alumna and current chairwoman of the Auburn Adventist Academy Committee of 100, recommends reconnecting with your alma mater through a culture of philanthropy.



These Pacific Northwest leaders obtained their education at Auburn Adventist Academy. Alumnus Craig Mattson is leading the Auburn Adventist Academy alumni association and seeks to help reunite academy alumni.

So how does this apply to alumni of Seventh-day Adventist schools in the Pacific Northwest?

1. Some schools may not treasure their alumni because they are preoccupied with management, financial and disciplinary issues. More than 100,000 alumni from Adventist schools live in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Alumni relations should be a top priority for school administrators. Even if the alumni ball is dropped, Dawn Heilbrun, Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) alumnus from 1980, recommends that alumni consider initiating a culture of philanthropy. “My father, Bob Paulson, ’54, showed me it



Wherever you obtained your secondary education, consider reuniting with your alma mater. Richard Dower, retired *Gleaner* editor and Auburn alumnus, joins other alumni leaders in requesting you share your contact information with your alma mater.

could be done when he began the AAA Committee of 100 fifteen years ago. Members have contributed 1.2 million dollars to date.”

2. A small group of alumni simply do not want to be found. Reasons could include painful memories due to broken promises, harsh words, church discipline or financial dealings gone awry. AAA alumni association president Craig Mattson, ’97, recommends intercessory prayer and informal class reunions to rebuild fractured bridges of communication. As bridges are rebuilt, retired *Gleaner* editor Dick Dower, AAA ’60, recommends contacting your class coordinators to share current contact information with your alma mater.

3. The “game” is stopped. Schools are closing. Wayne Wentland, AAA ’63, asks, “What if successful alumni entrepreneurs capable of employing students were to purchase 99-year leases of vacant school property to build industries providing capital for schools about to close and future dollars for students to self-pay tuition?”

Imagine the blockbuster impact 100,000 active alumni will have when they hear and answer the call of “Ollie, Ollie oxen free.” It will reunite alumni and reignite Adventist schools.

John McGhee, AAA alumni and development director



CHRIS DRAKE

Among its many programs and events, ASWWU organizes Orange Bike, a bike-sharing program.

STUDENT BODY ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

Happy birthday, Associated Students of Walla Walla University (ASWWU)! The year 2014 marks the 100th birthday of ASWWU.

What started in 1914 as a small effort to involve students in campus life is today an organization that contributes to campus life in many diverse ways.

Essentially, ASWWU is a business in and of itself. It is led by a student-elected president and his or her cabinet. It encompasses 12 departments, sends representatives to university administration committees, and publishes an annual photo directory, a picture yearbook and a weekly newspaper. Through these and other avenues, ASWWU is able to employ 115 students, includ-



RON WILKINSON

Last year, students raised money to provide more than 10 water wells to several Mozambique communities.

ing students who organize the many events that have made WWU known for its active campus life.

For example, each quarter the spiritual team organizes Battleground, a weekend for growing and exploring spirituality.

The ASWWU outdoor program provides weekend trips and teaches skills for surviving and even thriving in the wilderness. For entertainment, ASWWU's social department hosts several large and small events each quarter.

Aside from providing the student body with on-campus services, ASWWU has worked to foster a spirit of generosity beyond the campus. Each year ASWWU chooses a cause to support. Last year ASWWU's Mission Mozambique project raised funds, working with Wilkinson Baking Company, for wells to be built in Africa. In 2012, ASWWU raised money to help support local public elementary schools.

"Over the last 100 years, ASWWU has provided a strong voice for students to administration committees," says Jono Pratt, ASWWU president. "This access to administration allows students' needs to be met and goals to be accomplished."

In addition to providing student perspectives to ad-

ministrative leaders, students gain experience in leadership, relationship skills, and budget and project management.

ASWWU is celebrating the 100th anniversary with parties involving the entire campus, student-produced videos, and the launches of an apparel line and an annual fundraiser. And, for the first time in the existence of ASWWU, its officers are establishing a timeline of the history and milestones the student association has reached over the last 100 years.

The celebration of ASWWU's birthday will continue throughout the rest of the year. "We are hoping to see a large amount of alumni involvement over alumni weekend in the spring when so many graduates are on campus together," said Eric Weber, ASWWU marketing vice president.

Though the curricula, the degrees offered and the technology has changed, and the number and diversity of students has increased over each decade, the university community is grateful for the student leaders who formed ASWWU 100 years ago and those who continue to lead.

To learn more, visit wallawalla.edu.

Carolyn Green, Walla Walla University student



The Walla Walla Valley and surrounding mountains provide many settings for ASWWU's new outdoor program.

LOVE IN A CUP: WALLA GENERAL HOSPITAL BRINGS CARE TO CAREGIVERS

At Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH), amidst the hustle and bustle of hospital life, you can also find a spa-like environment — a room with soft lighting, calm music and warm tea made to perfection as people talk, laugh and relax. This environment is part of a program called Tea for the Soul.

Chaplain Mario DeLise and volunteer Kimberly Davidson started Tea for the Soul to show appreciation to employees. DeLise and Davidson set up the relaxing space throughout the hospital in different departments. They start each event by telling employees they are appreciated, and then employees have free time to sit quietly and meditate or visit with each other.

“I love being able to care for our employees who spend their lives caring for others,” says DeLise. “One of my favorite moments at Tea for the Soul was when an employee walked in clearly stressed with her shoulders up and clipboard held stiff. Shortly after we handed her a specially made cup of tea, her attitude was completely different. By the end she looked calm, relaxed and had a smile on her face.”



The high-stress hospital environment can make employees feel like taking a break is a waste of time, explains Laurien Hamilton, patient financial services director. “We all are so busy, and sometimes we don’t even take an actual lunch break,” says Hamilton. “Some people were hesitant to attend Tea for the Soul, but when they come they relax”

Aside from the rest and relaxation that Tea for the Soul brings, it is also bringing the WWGH community together. “It builds community within the department. People will sit

and chat together who otherwise may sit in cubicles and not interact as much,” said DeLise.

Leaders and directors of WWGH recognize the value of Tea for the Soul and even go out of their way to facilitate it. Beckie Versteeg, med/surg director, saw her busy nurses might not be able to attend Tea for the Soul when it was hosted at her department. So Versteeg covered for her nurses on her day off so that they could, two at a time, relax at the event. “I always make this program a priority even if I am busy,” she says. “It sends a message to the

staff that the mission is not just for the patients but for the staff as well.”

DeLise states that the program has helped bring healing to the souls of those who work every day to heal the bodies of others. “It allows ministry to happen,” says DeLise. “This allows us to show people that our real purpose is to care for them and to show them God. It brings a sense of compassion and love in a cup.”

Divya Joseph, Adventist Health Gleaner correspondent



Don and Betty Amundson

Amundson 65th

Recently the family of Betty and Don Amundson gathered at their home in Pasco, Wash., to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Betty Reinke and Don Amundson were married in Billings, Mont., on Aug. 26, 1948. They lived in Montana, Washington, Oregon and California before settling in Red Bluff, Calif., where they lived for almost 40 years. Don was a timber faller; Betty was a homemaker and, for several years, a dental assistant to help with tuition costs of their three children.

They were active members of the Red Bluff Church where Don served as head deacon and helped build the church. Betty was a greeter, secretary, Sabbath School teacher and Pathfinder assistant. They both served as the church treasurer for many years.

They moved to Pasco in 2000 to be near their eldest daughter. Their family includes Sandy and Bill Nixon of Pasco; Donella and Ron Manuel of Martinez, Calif.; Gary and Jan Amundson of Redding, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Fischer 60th

Junior and Mary Fischer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a potluck/reception in the Falls City (Ore.) Church fellowship hall on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013, with friends and family. It was a lovely celebration with songs, stories, good food and a three-tiered cake.

Junior and Mary were married in the parlor of the Vernon and Millie Woodruff home in Tremonton, Utah, on Aug. 10, 1953. Junior was 20, and Mary was 18. They were married by Paul McFeeters. Junior had traveled from the East Coast (Army training in Virginia) to the West Coast (Fort Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash.), stopping in Utah to get married.

Junior first met Mary at a Friday evening vespers service



Junior and Mary Fischer

at the Falls City Church. Preston Smith was pastor at the time. Mary had come to Falls City to attend the church school for ninth grade. She lived in Falls City with her cousins Alvin and Gladys Woodruff while attending school.

Junior worked as a machinist for Burelbach Industries in Rickreall, Ore., for 33 years. Before that he worked at Harris Pine Mills in Walla Walla, Wash., and as an auto mechanic in Utah and McMinnville, Ore. Mary always worked at home raising five children. They also had numerous foster children in their home over the years.

Junior and Mary moved to Falls City and joined the Falls City Church in 1953. Junior has held various offices over the years, including deacon and elder positions. He is currently the head elder. Mary was the treasurer of the church for nearly 20 years. She has also been Sabbath School superintendent and deaconess.

When they were younger they enjoyed camping; now they enjoy gardening. They also enjoyed raising sheep and goats on their Falls City farm. This same farm is where Junior grew up as a child. They bought the farm from Junior's mother and have spent 48 years of their married life there.

Their oldest son, Arnie, lives in Idaho with his wife, Sylvia, and two children. The Fischers' daughter Rosie and her husband live nearby in Falls City. Their daughter Cindy and her family live in Keizer, Ore., and son Vernie and his family in Japan. The youngest daughter, Trudy, and her husband live in Lyle, Wash. Junior and Mary have 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Hall 50th

Fifty years ago last July, a handsome young soldier accompanied another soldier to the city of Santa Cruz, Calif., for some R & R. The other young man sampled the wares

at a local bar, while Neil Hall chose to go to the beach. He struck up a conversation with a young lady named Norma and was subsequently introduced to her friend, Joanne Ellsinger, who was napping on the blanket.

Before he left, Neil pocketed a slip of paper containing the name, address and phone number of Joanne, and an active correspondence followed. However, before any of this could happen, Neil had a problem — his buddy was sound asleep in the car containing Neil's shoes and could not be roused, so Neil had to hitchhike barefoot back to the base and convince the guard to allow him to enter.

Neil was sent to North Carolina for a month of training, and the letters between him and Joanne kept the postal service busy. When he returned, he frequently drove to San Jose, Calif., to court her, and three months later they drove to Reno, Nev., and were married. The reason for choosing this venue for their wedding was simple: Joanne was a Roman Catholic, and Neil was against religion of all kinds, so they followed the example set by Joanne's parents and her uncle and thus avoided having to meet Catholic requirements in order to have their marriage sanctioned.

Two years later another major event took place. They received a flyer announcing evangelistic meetings being held by Jim Hiner, and they attended, not because of the meeting content but because there would be a slide show of Germany where Neil had spent two years while in the Army. They thought to stay for the pictures then slip out, but God had other plans.

FAMILY MILESTONES

They were seated in the middle of the auditorium, and a little old lady sat next to Neil and pulled out the Bible he had hidden under his jacket and pointedly referred to each Bible verse as it was presented. Later after he and Joanne were baptized, he asked to meet this “little old lady” and was told that no one had seen such a person — they said the seat next to him was empty each night.

Neil worked as a railroad lineman, fire truck painter, and maintenance man at Livingstone Junior Academy in Salem, Ore. Later he was employed by the Northern California Conference. He and Joanne were blessed with two children — a son, Allen, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 1988, and a daughter, Virginia. Their granddaughter Sarah moved with them when they moved to Tillamook, Ore., seven years ago.

Neil loves to create beautiful objects with his scroll saw, teaches this craft at Leoni Meadows in California each summer, and has sold his artwork at the gift shop at the Tillamook Cheese Factory and in Gold Beach, Ore. He also does stained glass and lapidary work. Joanne enjoys doing word puzzles. Both are active in church work — Neil teaches a Sabbath School class, helps with the jail ministry, and has served as deacon and elder.

To commemorate their 50th anniversary they gave each other brand new Bibles engraved with their names.

Pooley 50th

Burt and Charla (Staddon) Pooley were married Sept. 1, 1963, in Paradise, Calif., where they had met several years earlier.

Burt’s 40-year career for the Adventist denomination included several accounting and treasury positions in academy, mission, conference and university assignments in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Ohio, Tennessee and California. While their daughter was young, Charla enjoyed being a homemaker. Later, as school expenses began to rise, Charla started her working-mom career. She spent 20 years working in teaching and secretarial positions in Adventist entities.

They retired in the fall of 2004 from their work in the Northern California Conference office in Pleasant Hill, Calif. Since retiring, they have been active in the Gladstone Park Church in the Oregon Conference.

There were two special family gatherings last summer to help Burt and Charla celebrate their 50 years of marriage. They were blessed to have all nine of their grandchildren together to help make this a memorable time in many ways.

The Pooley family includes Kim (Pooley) Ashton of Battle Ground, Wash.; Brian and Brenda (Pooley) Ermshar of Vancouver, Wash.; Burt’s father, George Pooley, of Oregon City, Ore.; and 9 grandchildren.

Stephens 105th

Family, friends and Leroy “Ard” Stephens’ church family celebrated his 105th birthday with a potluck lunch/reception in the church fellowship hall on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013. The place was packed.

Ard was born in Newport on Nov. 5, 1908. He was the second of nine children, six boys and three girls, born to his parents, both school

teachers. His family was poor, so Ard started working early. He spent much of his working life in the trees of the Pacific Northwest, working on his first crew in 1923. He worked on or supervised logging crews in Oregon, Washington and California through his time on



Leroy “Ard” Stephens

the job. He learned to fly at age 48.

Ard retired from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1979 after years of flying the Warm Spring Reservation fire patrol. He was 71 but certainly not ready for “retirement living.”

He met his wife, Dorrie, on a trip to the Philippines, and they married in 1980. The couple moved to Falls City a year later to be closer to Ard’s younger brother, Al. During the early part of their marriage, the couple traveled extensively, often visiting the Philippines, where Ard built a house overlooking the beach. He also adopted Maria Eva and her two daughters, Vanessa and Sherri, who live in the Philippines.

Ard’s family includes one daughter, Margaret Brown of Beaverton, Ore.; one son, Larry Stephens of Seaside, Ore.; adopted daughter Maria Eva Stephens of the Philippines; and 4 grandchildren.

FAMILY BIRTHS

KORT — Benjamin Engel was born July 1, 2013, to Jonathan and Lindsey (Marlotte) Kort, Lincoln City, Ore.

SCHLEHUBER — Jakob Alden was born Nov. 11, 2013, to Joseph and Hillary (Stahlheber) Schlehuber, Issaquah, Wash.

SCHUTTE — Sophia Abigail was born Oct. 15, 2013, to Adam and Brianna (Stricklin) Schutte, Lincoln City, Ore.

SEGEBARTT — Cameron Allan was born Aug. 16, 2013, to Jared and Sara (Totten) Segebartt, Palouse, Wash.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

COLEMAN-SITTLER

Shirley J. (Rader) Coleman and Richard K. Sittler were married July 24, 2013, in Lacey, Wash., where they are making their home.

GULLEDGE-CLARK

Patricia Ann Gulledge and Gregory Marshall Clark were married Dec. 18, 2013, in Eugene, Ore. They are making their home in Pleasant Hill, Ore.

OLDENSTADT-PURVIS

Megan Oldenstadt and Brock Purvis were married June 8, 2013, in Pullman, Wash. They are making their home in Moscow, Idaho. Megan is the daughter of Mark Oldenstadt and Susan Marra. Brock is the son of Mike Purvis and Susan Ratcliff.

“WAITING FOR OUR BLESSED HOPE, THE APPEARING OF THE GLORY OF OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.” TITUS 2:13

BARROWS — Winifred Lucile (Smith), 94; born March 25, 1919, Miami, Fla.; died Nov. 23, 2013, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Cleo D. Allen, Grants Pass; brother, Charles E. Smith, Asheville, N.C.; sister, Mildred Sackett, Portland, Ore.; and 2 grandchildren.

BINGHAM — Carolee (Bond), 75; born Feb. 1, 1938, Oakland, Calif.; died Sept. 30, 2013, Ojai, Calif. Surviving: son, Edwin, Magalia, Calif.; daughters, Bonnie Jenkins, Granite Bay, Calif.; Laurie Ronelle Wood, Ojai; and 5 grandchildren.

BOSLER — Gladys Marie (Frost) Hanks, 88; born July 22, 1924, Wallace, Idaho; died Nov. 21, 2012, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Ellemae Kathleen (Hanks) Jenkins, College Place, Wash.

BUTTERFIELD — Gary Noel, 76; born June 25, 1937, Cove, Ore.; died Nov. 22, 2013, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Marianne (Dorsey) King; daughters, Jana (Butterfield) Jacobson and Lisa (Butterfield) Gohl, both of Port Orchard, Wash.; Cheryl (Butterfield) Ortega, Puyallup, Wash.; stepsons, Terry King, of New York; Todd King, Logan, Utah; David King, Sandy, Utah; Shawn King, Star, Idaho; sisters, Gay (Butterfield) Wilson, of California; Gail (Butterfield) Reitz, San Francisco, Calif.; 16 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

CROSS — Forrest “Frosty” A., 57; born Feb. 27, 1956, Ellensburg, Wash.; died Dec. 5, 2013, Ellensburg. Surviving: wife, June (Schwartz); son, David, Livermore, Calif.; daughter, Jennifer Mundall, Valle de Angeles, Honduras; and sister, Kathy Cross, Lacey, Wash.

GREEN — Sharon D. (Gressley), 64; born March 18, 1949, Spokane, Wash.; died Nov. 23, 2013, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: husband, John; sons, John Jr. and Del, both of Springfield; daughter, Jennifer Keef, Astoria, Ore.; and 2 grandchildren.

KNARR — Paul, 89; born Oct. 9, 1924, unknown; died Dec. 8, 2013, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Anna Mae; son, Mark; daughters, Patricia Birmingham and Shelli Mallet; foster son, Patrick Dey; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

KOENIG — Tami Kay, 51; born Jan. 19, 1962, Medford, Ore.; died Nov. 5, 2013, Sedona, Ariz. Surviving: husband, Mark Groseclose, Tucson, Ariz.; sisters, Kathy Corwin, Medford, Ore.; and Jeannie Pickens, Lake Oswego, Ore.

LEFFERTS — Myrtle Jennie (Turner), 95; born Dec. 11, 1915, Grass Range, Mont.; died Dec. 15, 2010, Bozeman, Mont. Surviving: son, Marvin Lefferts, Bozeman; daughters, Babe (Lefferts) Thorn, Anchorage, Alaska; Carol

(Lefferts) Riotta, Renton, Wash.; 7 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

LOSEY — Esther Marie (Devoir), 91; born Dec. 30, 1921, Yakima, Wash.; died May 22, 2013, Oregon City, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Vickie Dunafon, Oregon City; brother, Robert Devoir, Crescent City, Calif.; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

LYDIE — Ralph Robert, 71; born May 16, 1942, Spokane, Wash.; died Oct. 30, 2013, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Laurel (Douglas); son, Nathaniel, Brush Prairie, Wash.; daughter, Mindy Strube, Portland; and 3 grandchildren.

MARTIN — Cecil, 84; born Feb. 20, 1929, Glendale, Calif.; died Nov. 16, 2013, Sequim, Wash. Surviving: sons, Steve, Lodi, Calif.; David, Martinez, Calif.; daughter, Diane Cowles, Forks, Wash.; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MUNSEY — Deloris Mildred (Beach), 90; born March 4, 1923, Mountain Home, Idaho; died Nov. 12, 2013, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Frank T.; son, Michael, Taipei, Taiwan; daughter, Marilyn Kreuder, Caldwell; sisters, Lorraine Foster and Carolyn Kubitschek, both of Mountain Home; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

PARMENTER — Harold R., 79; born Dec. 6, 1933, Des Moines, Iowa; died Nov. 13, 2013, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: wife, Neva (Abbott); sons, Michael, Lowell, Ore.; Stephen, Pleasant Hill, Ore.; daughter, Roxanne Parmenter, Monmouth, Ore.; brother, Larry, Beaverton, Ore.; sisters, Maxine Burns and Kathleen Demoss, both of Springfield, Ore.; 19 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

PETERSON — Don Carl, 87; born Jan. 9, 1926, Weiser, Idaho; died Nov. 9, 2013, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Shirley Mae (Starkebaum), College Place, Wash.; sons, Steve D., Walla Walla; Stan E., Castle Rock, Colo.; daughters, S. Renee Peterson, Spokane, Wash.; Sheri M. Hensel, Mishawaka, Ind.; sisters, Wanda Jenkins, Ogden, Utah; Lila Nelson, Soda Springs, Idaho; Carol Pitkins, Kennewick, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

RIGGINS — Vera (Peters) Smith, 98; born Dec. 3, 1914, Wenatchee, Wash.; died Oct. 25, 2013, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Ella (Smith) Jackson, Vancouver, Wash.; Viola (Smith) Peach, Spokane; sister, Eva Stutzman, Wenatchee; 8 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

FEB. 1 — Local Church Budget;

FEB. 8 — Adventist Television Ministries;

FEB. 15 — Local Church Budget;

FEB. 22 — Local Conference Advance.

Northwest Prison Ministry Retreat

MARCH 14-16 — You're invited to the Northwest Prison Ministry Retreat. Prison ministry offers hope and help to those affected by incarceration. The retreat will: celebrate the miracles in the lives of inmates; provide training for new and seasoned volunteers that work both inside and outside prison walls; and inspire and challenge all toward more effective and efficient service. Early bird registration rates until Feb. 12. Register at NWPrisonRetreat.eventbrite.com. For more information, call Colette at 253-681-6008.

More upcoming event listed at gleaner.com/events.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

FEB. 1 — Black History Sabbath, University Church at 11 a.m.;

FEB. 1 — Total Praise: A Festival of Choirs, featuring Northwest gospel choirs, University Church at 11 a.m.;

FEB. 6-8 — Friendship Tournament, academy basketball tournament, more information at wallawalla.edu/friendship;

FEB. 20 — Egg Drop Contest, Kretschmar Hall Lawn;

FEB. 20 — Engineers Dinner at 6:30 p.m., open to general public.

For tickets, call 509-527-2765.

OREGON

Fountain of Youth Weekend

FEB. 8 — Fountain of Youth weekend at 1500 Canal Rd., Niland, Calif. For more information, please contact Larry Hiday at 360-687-3161 or hidala@caaschool.org.

Valentine's Weekend Event

FEB. 15 — a Valentine's Weekend Event for the community at Sunnyside Church will present an organ concert by Kimo Smith at 7 p.m. Smith is an associate professor of music at La Sierra University and an organist at Loma Linda University Church and First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. This event will be free of charge. Donations will be accepted. Sunnyside is located on 10501 SE Market St., Portland, OR 97216. For additional details, contact the church office at 503-252-8080.

Columbia Adventist Academy Visitation Day

FEB. 26 — Come tour the campus, visit classes and participate in activities including games and scholarship opportunities, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a free lunch provided. To register, call 360-687-3161. We want you at CAA in 2014-2015.

Oregon Women's Ministry Area 3 Event

MARCH 16 — Oregon Women's Ministry Area 3 event with keynote speaker Lisa Marie Buster, at the Spring Hill Country Club, 155 NW Country Club Lane, Albany, OR 97321. Breakout presenters and titles forthcoming. Register by Feb. 7 for the early bird special. Space is limited. To get on the email list and/or register, contact Jackie Johnson at macwomensministry@gmail.com or mail your information to McMinnville Church, attn: Jackie Johnson, PO Box 448, McMinnville, OR 97128.

Salem Pioneer Pathfinders 'Then and Now'

MARCH 22 — Salem Pioneer Pathfinders former directors, staff, Pathfinders and families are invited to join the current Pathfinders in a celebration of Betty Kites' 50 years of service to Pathfinders. Please come for Sabbath School and church at Salem Central Church, 1330 Summer St., Salem, OR 97301, followed by a potluck dinner and time for reflecting and sharing. For more information, contact Donna (Kites) Newbeck at newbeckfamily@q.com or 503-999-3129.

Annual Singles' Big Lake Snow Weekend

MARCH 28-30 — Come and enjoy a winter weekend at Big Lake Youth Camp. Bring snowmobiles, skis, snowshoes, sleds, snowboards and clothes for playing in the snow. Don't forget to bring your Bible, sleeping bag, pillow and personal items. Place all items in an easily identifiable, snow-proof bag. Snowmobile rides available for all. Price increases after March 14. Your fee includes a 5:30 p.m. snow cat ride in from Ray Benson Sno-Park (Sno-Park permits required for the weekend), five meals and two nights' lodging. For fee details and more information, call Jerry at 503-789-8911 or 541-998-3593, or call Gary at 503-936-7211. Your check is your reservation. Make checks payable to Jerry Walter, marked for Big Lake. Mail to Big Lake Weekend, c/o Jerry Walter, 92395 Territorial Hwy., Junction City, OR 97448.

CAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend

APRIL 4-6 — Alumni Homecoming Weekend is for all Columbia Adventist Academy alumni and friends and will honor the Honor Trailblazer Group of those who graduated before 1964, as well as the graduating classes of 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994 and 2004. If you are interested in helping to coordinate your class reunion, please contact Larry Hiday at 360-687-3161 or hidala@caaschool.org. Hope to see you there.

WASHINGTON

Concerts at Shoreline Church

FEB. 21 AND 22 — Shoreline Church presents musical performances by Christian Berdahl of Shepherd's Call Ministries. Please join us and bring some friends. Friday concert begins at 7 p.m.; Sabbath concert begins at 2:30 p.m. Shoreline Church is just one block east from the NE 175th St. exit off of I-5, 17424 5th Ave. NE, Shoreline, WA 98155. For further information, call Dan Chavis at 425-774-6278.

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Ketchikan	4:33	4:48	5:03	5:18
IDAHO CONFERENCE				
Boise	6:03	6:13	6:22	6:31
La Grande	5:07	5:17	5:27	5:37
Pocatello	5:50	5:59	6:08	6:17
MONTANA CONFERENCE				
Billings	5:28	5:38	5:48	5:58
Havre	5:26	5:37	5:48	6:00
Helena	5:40	5:50	6:01	6:11
Miles City	5:15	5:26	5:36	5:47
Missoula	5:47	5:58	6:08	6:19
OREGON CONFERENCE				
Coos Bay	5:36	5:45	5:54	6:03
Medford	5:32	5:41	5:50	5:59
Portland	5:25	5:35	5:45	5:55
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE				
Pendleton	5:09	5:19	5:29	5:39
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Walla Walla	5:06	5:17	5:27	5:37
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Yakima	5:14	5:24	5:35	5:45
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE				
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CROSSING THE GENERATIONAL DIVIDE, PART 2



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce

In Jesus' day the younger generation wrestled with their relationship to their elders and the reality of what God expected:

And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God) — then

you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do" (Mark 7:9–13, ESV).

The narrative tells of a nifty little stunt the young adults would pull when it came to child support — in this case the child supporting the parents.

The phrase "Corban" was the equivalent of saying "1-2-3 not it!" The word removed the obligation of money/gifts for the parents — making it reserved for God. The idea is well and good except that it declared that you had reserved an item — it didn't mean you had to follow through and actually give it. They would use the phrase as a sneaky way to keep what was

supposed to take care of the older generation. Jesus has a problem with using religion as an excuse to exclude people.

Contemporary Mission

Intergenerational ministry is a dance that requires grace and finesse. Traditionally, younger and older generations within a church community view each other with suspicion. What I offer here are a few suggestions to help build some bridges in order to practice the fifth commandment.

Word to the Elderly

You will have tremendous challenge with integrating young adults in ministry — but if you refuse this challenge the alternative is to let Israel perish in the wilderness. Studies reveal a few things about the emerging adult generation that are helpful to keep in mind.

If they cannot move upward, they will move onward. If they aren't trusted with significant roles they will find a place that will trust them — and it won't be the church.

» 96 percent believe they can do something great.

» 85 percent feel they have a lot of unused potential.

At a glance this looks pretty frustrating, but as an encouraging note three-fourths of those surveyed expressed interest in being men-



Read "Crossing the Generational Divide, Part 1" from the January 2014 issue at glnr.in/cross-gen-1.



PERSPECTIVE



Too often we are willing sacrifice those who have gone before so we can go on ahead.

tored by a leader. They respond well to input and constructive criticism.¹ You have a ready generation to pass leadership on to — as long as it is real leadership and not a token position.

So who is the youngest elder in your church? Many ministerial students are ordained as elders in their early 20s, but they sit on elder boards and church boards with people multiple generations apart from them.

It's a dangerous gap.

What happens when the leaders no longer have the

strength to lead? Who is being discipled? Where is the energy, creativity and fresh perspective coming from?

Too often young adults can be educated, can start families, can have careers, pay taxes, play professional sports, direct films, compose music and die fighting for freedom — but we don't let them lead in "the Lord's army."

Word to the Millennial

We are partially to blame for our lack of leadership within

church structures. We break the fifth commandment whenever we complain about the elderly. We have a passion to do meaningful tasks, but too often we are willing to sacrifice those who have gone before so we can go on ahead.

Impatience and entitlement issues hallmark my generation. *But aren't we entitled to lead eventually?*

Yes. But you cannot lead something you are not a part of.

Our hyper-ambition and mobility make us unstable as

1. Thom S. Rainer and Jess Rainer. *The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation* (Nashville: B&H Books, 2011).

leaders. As soon as we arrive in one position we leave after a year or two — and guess which generation is left with picking up the mantle they tried to hand to us? We start things we don't finish, and our parents and grandparents have to come clean up our mess as if we were still children.

While we cannot contribute as much as our financially stable elders, we do need to demonstrate that we are invested in this community. Like electing a president who doesn't pay taxes, like adult children who live at home and refuse to help with expenses. You want to lead? Then you need to invest.

This means making a commitment longer than one or two years and contributing financially to show that you have invested in the health of the community — not just your resume. Listen, connect and find ways to bring the retired leadership with you on the journey God has called you to take.

May our efforts result in the fulfillment of the fifth commandment's promise of our "days being long in the land" God will give us.

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor





LET'S TALK

STUPID

My failures give me pause. Why would God want to use someone as unreliable as me?



EDITOR

Steve Vistaunet

I was out of my league and didn't know it. Piloting a 50-foot monstrosity had mandated a written test and one cursory drive around the block. As a college-age taskforce volunteer I was full of imagined proficiency.

So I felt no sense of impending doom while in the driver's seat of a school bus chauffeuring students on a trip to the county courthouse. Downtown meant narrow, crowded streets and daunting maneuvers. But I had successfully navigated the maze and dropped students off for their visit. Now I threaded my way through traffic to pick them back up. Spotting them lined up on the sidewalk to the side of the building, I turned the corner, cut it too close and felt the rear wheels bump up and over the curb.

This provided great entertainment, a moment of levity, for the waiting ones, who applauded and whooped their approval. With sheepish grin, I pulled over, opened the door and watched my students file back onto the bus. The com-

ments came thick and fast: "Nice job, Mr. V!" "I want to be able to drive like you when I get my license." "Do you charge for roller coaster rides?"

The well-dressed man at the end of the line was an unexpected surprise. So was his pointed invitation to join him down at street level. "Let me show you something," he said, as he walked back toward the corner. "I was standing right here at the curb when you came around the corner," he continued. "If I hadn't jumped back, if I had been an elderly or disabled person, you would have run me over. By the way, I'm the assistant district attorney here."

Student faces were plastered against the bus windows, eagerly enjoying the confrontation. This was far more interesting than what they had witnessed inside the courtroom.

But a cold sweat was all I could feel. Thankfully the attorney took pity on me. "Take this as a warning," he admonished. "Remember, you're responsible for both the people inside the vehicle and those outside."

I recall that experience with chagrin. It wasn't my first or last entry on the "stupid" list. But I've often wondered about the fine line between stupid and tragic. What if it had been an elderly lady in a walker at that curb? Today, what if I sneak a glance at my mobile phone

just as a child runs into the street or forget to turn off the stove burner at home? What if?

I'm sure there have been countless times through the years when my thoughtless actions or careless words have physically, mentally or spiritually hurt someone. My failures give me pause. Why would God want to use someone as unreliable as me?

And then I remember Peter — lovable, impetuous Peter ... the one who verbally and vehemently denied his Lord. How would that rate in magnitude on the "stupid" list? And yet Jesus tasked him with being a shepherd of His sheep. The name Peter, *Petros* in Greek, means a small piece of rock. Like us, Peter was a rolling stone under foot until firmly connected to the foundation Rock, Jesus Christ.

Got some regrets? Some uncomfortable memories? Jesus has a job for you too. His discipling process turns deny-ers into disciples, tears into triumph, resignation into redemption, sinners into saints.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

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