

**EDITORIAL**  
A FRESH FOCUS ON  
CREATION

**PERSPECTIVE**  
BORROWING TROUBLE

**LET'S TALK**  
GRACE

# gleaner

**NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION**



RESTORING  
OUR PUBLIC  
RELEVANCE

**THE 25-YEAR LEGACY OF THE NORTHWEST RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION**

**MAR.**  
**2016**  
VOL. 111, N° 3



... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ ... .  
Eph. 3:17-18

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MAX TORKELSEN

# gleaner

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### *Gleaner* STAFF

**Editor:** Steve Vistaunet

**Copy Editor:** Laurel Rogers

**Advertising and Project Manager:**

Desiree Lockwood

**Digital Media Coordinator:**

Anthony White

**Design:** GUILDHOUSE Group

“Water Drops Perfected”  
in Salmon La Sac, Wash.,  
by Sean Henderson,  
of Puyallup Wash.

# + INTERSECTIONS

# GOT A BIG IDEA?

Does it involve digital media? Will it reach Northwest communities for Christ?

Project matching grants up to \$10,000 are available through the North Pacific Union Conference Digital Media Fund. Your project idea may qualify. Discover the details online at [npuc.org/digitalmediafund](http://npuc.org/digitalmediafund).

## DIGITAL MEDIA FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE

Projects don't all begin in conference committees. Members all across the Northwest have skills and ideas that can help advance the Gospel Commission to Northwest communities.

With this in mind, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) is sponsoring a new resource for grassroots ideas. During 2016 the NPUC Digital Media Fund will provide a limited number of matching grants up to \$10,000 for selected projects that initiate creative ways to reach out via new media.

"Our church has been a pioneer in its use of traditional broadcast media," says Steve

Vistaunet, NPUC communication director. "We hope this fund will encourage new pioneers in digital media outreach — especially from some of our young adults who can most effectively reach their peer groups."

Project ideas may involve unique websites, smartphone apps, podcasts, YouTube video series or other creative approaches.

Those with digital media ideas should visit the online project page at [npuc.org/digitalmediafund](http://npuc.org/digitalmediafund) for specific information on how to apply for a matching grant.

# OOPS!

We missed acknowledging the talented photographer of our February issue cover. Scott Knight's photo "Twilight" was taken in Bandon, Oregon. Thank you, Scott.





## A FRESH FOCUS ON CREATION



AUTHOR

Max Torkelsen

**O**f you take the words of Scripture as they read, without clever interpretations or complicated hermeneutics, it is pretty easy to understand what they say about the origins of life on Planet Earth. “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth . . . for he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast” (Ps. 33:6, 9).

It’s why I believe the Bible does not describe an evolutionary process taking millions of years. And, the fact that God created us gives us all sorts of reasons why obeying Him is for our good. If He is our Creator, then we belong to Him.

After all, who would know better how we can live happy and meaningful lives than the One who made us?

The seventh-day Sabbath is, as Ellen White described it, a “memorial of creation.”

It is a weekly reminder that God created us and that He will one day recreate us into the perfect people we were designed to be. It is the indispensable beginning marker of the Great Controversy theme that is a unique contribution of Adventists’ biblical understanding to theological thought.

The scriptural account of creation and the Noachian flood are so foundational to our beliefs that the devil seeks to undermine them through every strategy he can devise. Because of this, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee voted to establish a creation study center at the NPUC headquarters in Ridgefield, Wash.

Our office is located within sight of Mount St. Helens. The unexpected eruption of that long-dormant volcano 36 years ago provides a fascinating case worthy of careful study. Giant trees floating upright in Spirit Lake have eventually sunk into the soft sediments of the bottom, proving that the “petrified forest” in Yellowstone could have been produced from a similar single volcanic event.<sup>1</sup> Waterborne catastrophes better explain what we see here in the Pacific Northwest than slow processes requiring millions of years.

In addition to the St. Helens evidence, there is another event that affected large portions of the Pacific Northwest called the Missoula Flood. Evidence points to a gigantic ice dam that formed, blocking the Clark Fork River in Montana. When this ice dam broke, an enormous wall of water as much as 500 feet deep flooded across the Northwest leaving the Columbia Gorge and Columbia River behind. Most geologists accept this

explanation for the formation of dry falls and other unique topography across eastern Oregon, Washington and northern Idaho.<sup>2</sup>

Pastor Stan Hudson has been studying creation and the flood his entire professional life. You may have heard the radio program that he and John Kurlinski have broadcast for several years. It is appropriately named “Sink the *Beagle*.” The ship that Charles Darwin took to the Galapagos Islands was named the *HMS Beagle*.

Hudson is the newly elected director of the NPUC creation study center. He will be establishing a library of biblical creation study materials and will be available for creation seminar weekends or weeks of prayer at schools and churches across the Northwest. He also hopes to plan study tours for groups of interested pastors, teachers and church members.

Don’t forget — you are not the progeny of a gorilla or chimpanzee. You are a son or daughter of God, made in His likeness and worthy of His tender regard.

1. Morris, John and Austin, Steven A., *Footprints in the Ash*, (Green Forest, Arkansas: Master Books, Inc., 2005), pp. 78-79.

2. For those interested in reading more on the Missoula Flood, see *Creation* magazine, pp 43-46, “The Lake Missoula Flood — Clues for the Genesis Flood,” April 2014.

*Max Torkelsen, North Pacific Union Conference president*

# + PICTURE THIS



Running toward a worthy cause.

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He's not too young to scale the heights.

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A choir with community connections.

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Alcoholic builds church, finds Jesus.

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Health system leaders collaborate at Capitol.

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# RESTORING OUR PUBLIC RELEVANCE

## THE 25-YEAR LEGACY OF THE NORTHWEST RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

**B**ecause of their prophetic beliefs, Seventh-day Adventists have imagined a world without religious freedom perhaps more than most people of faith. This proclivity has unfortunately led our church at times to minimize the importance of religious freedom as a “public ministry.” Our tendencies toward public isolation and parochialism — waiting passively for a national Sunday law — represent an unfortunate mindset that must be challenged and overcome.

The thought of church-sponsored legal and constitutional advocacy in a public and political arena is perceived by some of our faithful members as offensive or spiritually improper. Even those who are supportive wonder sometimes if our religious liberty efforts are on the “wrong side” because we champion the constitutional separation of church and state.

And yet, our church’s understanding of the constitutional founders’ intent, our commitment to Scripture and our belief in Ellen White’s still-relevant counsel have led us to maintain this critical equilibrium. It is the proper balance between the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment of our Constitution that thought-leaders throughout the nation have come to recognize and respect. Our church’s Declaration of Principles highlights this respected approach:

### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

- » The God-given right of religious liberty is best exercised when church and state are separate.
- » Government is God’s agency to protect individual rights and to conduct civil affairs; in exercising these responsibilities, officials are entitled to respect and cooperation.
- » Religious liberty entails

freedom of conscience: to worship or not to worship; to profess, practice and promulgate religious beliefs or to change them. In exercising these rights, however, one must respect the equivalent rights of all others.

- » Attempts to unite church and state are opposed to the interests of each, subversive of human rights and potentially persecuting in character; to oppose union, lawfully and honorably, is not only the citizen’s duty but the essence of the Golden Rule — to treat others as one wishes to be treated.

### NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Our church’s religious liberty efforts have been recognized in recent years by some of the leading luminaries in Washington as the No. 1 religious identity in the world that champions religious freedom in the public square. Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Ben Carson, Secretary

of State John Kerry, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, and Utah Senator Orrin Hatch and Arizona Senator John McCain — both Democrats and Republicans — have all recognized this and proclaimed it in banquet rooms and the press.

This is due in large part to *Liberty* magazine and its reputation for being a leading thought-journal among civic



Congress of the United  
began and held at the City of New York, on  
the 7th of March, one thousand seven hundred

leaders in the public arena. It also reflects a steady government relations program on Capitol Hill.

Certainly our message and our mission are not created just to foster political appeal. But recognition and respect from prominent thought-leaders is a start in the right direction if we are to be publicly relevant on a national scale.

Some will assume that this has always been the case. But sadly it has not been, especially at the state legislative level, where the Adventist Church has only 14 established and professionally functioning government relations programs (five in the Northwest, one in California and eight in the Southern Union), leaving 36 states

with no representation at all.

That must change — and is changing. The Lake Union Conference, with Barbara Livesay's leadership, recently committed itself to establishing a government relations program in each of its four Midwestern states. But that still leaves 32 states in the North American Division without representation.

## NORTHWEST LEGACY

This year the Northwest Religious Liberty Association (NRLA) will be celebrating its 25th anniversary since it was rechartered in 1991. Richard Fenn and the NRLA charter members intended to revive the public advocacy programs that Alonzo T. Jones started in the States back in the early 1900s. The North Pacific Religious Liberty Association (NPR-LA) was originally founded in 1906, the same year as the organization of the North Pacific Union Conference.

Our Northwest Religious Liberty Association has advanced this legacy in substantive ways, providing quality representation through its Capitol Pastor program in the state legislatures of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski signs the Oregon Workplace Religious Freedom Act in an interfaith ceremony held April 1, 2010.





Greg Hamilton, NRLA president (right) congratulates Richard Fenn and his wife, Joan, for his recognition by the International Religious Liberty Association and *Liberty* magazine.

Our mission entails four specific branches of ministry: workplace mediation, education advocacy, *Liberty* magazine promotional work, and civic and legislative advocacy. More specifically, this means we are actively and professionally involved in the legislative, civic, judicial, academic, interfaith, ecumenical and corporate arenas.

We are constantly working there to prevent the erosion of the constitutional separation of church and state, the free exercise of religion, and anti-discrimination laws, particularly in the workplace.

Our influence has even extended internationally to Romania, where NRLA influenced senators in that nation's parliament to discourage a six-day workweek law. That law would have allowed Sunday rest only and the constitutional recognition of the Romanian Orthodox Church as the only state-approved religion.

NRLA's civic and legislative accomplishments have been significant but little-known:

» **Oregon Workplace Religious Freedom Act (2010)** applies a fairer standard for religious minorities and all conscientious employees of faith seeking holy day and religious garb accommodations by restoring the language of "significant expense and difficulty" to

the legal definition of employer "undue hardship" in Oregon Title VII civil rights law. New York, California and Oregon are the only states who have restored this original intent to anti-discrimination law.

- » **Idaho's Free Exercise of Religion Act of 2000** restored the "compelling interest" and "least restrictive means" legal tests to Free Exercise jurisprudence, so that when religious individuals' and institutions' religious practices are challenged by the state, the burden of proof was returned to the shoulders of the state.
- » **Alaska's Religious Freedom Restoration Act** was written by NRLA in 1998 and shepherded until 2001. It has renewed interest and momentum.
- » **Washington State's Religious Preference Policy for Native American Indian Inmates**, rewritten in 2006 because of NRLA's direct intervention, allows for dual religious preference for prisoner registration using the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Person's Act (RLUIPA) of 2000.
- » **Defeated the forced unionization of all private child care centers** in Washington in 2010.
- » **Defeated Greater Seattle's Growth Manage-**

## ATTEMPTS TO UNITE CHURCH AND STATE THE INTERESTS OF EACH, SUBVERSIVE POTENTIALLY PERSECUTING IN CHARA

**ment Act** in 2001, which attempted to place a moratorium on the building of new churches and schools in rural King County.

### 'CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS'

When Oregon Representative Dave Hunt took on the sponsorship of NRLA's proposed Oregon Workplace Religious Freedom Act in 2007, he knew he was taking a political risk with his Democratic Caucus colleagues in the Oregon House of Representatives, particularly after having served as a former national president of the American Baptist Churches USA. He had become majority leader that year.

Hunt had risen in 2009 to become Oregon's Speaker of the House of Representatives thanks to a slim coalition of moderate Democrats and Republicans. This gave the Oregon Workplace Religious

Freedom Act momentum for a higher legal standard of accommodation for religious employees who needed their religious requirements met in a reasonable way without causing a "significant" hardship for employers. Our bill passed both House and Senate chambers by a 66 percent vote margin, and Governor Ted Kulongoski signed it into law.

But then we hit a snag because this new law did not provide any relief for public school teachers, particularly when it came to the matter of wearing religious garb. This statutory prohibition (ORS 342.650) had remained in the newly signed Workplace Religious Freedom Act. Muslims, Sikhs, Catholics, Jews and others urged the Oregon Legislature to repeal it in a special 2010 legislative session.

This statutory prohibition originated with the Ku Klux Klan's influence over both Republicans and Democrats in



(From left) Rhonda Bolton, NRLA administrative assistant; Douglas Clayville, NRLA Oregon Capitol pastor; Dave Hunt, Oregon Speaker of the House; and Greg Hamilton, NRLA president as Representative Hunt is presented with a thank you award at the 2009 Oregon Conference camp meeting.

TE ARE OPPOSED TO  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
CTER.

# ACCOMODATING THE SABBATH

the Oregon Legislature in the early 1920s. They successfully lobbied to shut all religious and private schools in Oregon and to ban the wearing of religious habits by public school teachers, of whom many were priests and nuns. Some feared that communism was most easily advanced through Catholic schools, which made up the majority of Oregon schools at the time.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the school ban in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925) by a vote of 9-0. The statutory prohibition on the wearing of religious garb by public school teachers and staff, however, remained.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) fought our efforts in House Bill 3686 to repeal this prohibition during a one-month special session in 2010 to amend, and thus save, Oregon's Workplace Religious Freedom Act.

If it wasn't for Representative Hunt's influence and the work of the Northwest Religious Liberty Association in uniting Sikhs, Muslims, Jews, Protestants and Catholics, we would not have been able to successfully overcome the ACLU's powerful opposition. Our new bill proposal passed by the same margin as it had in 2009, and an impressive interfaith bill-signing ceremony occurred in Kulongoski's office in April 2010.

Dave Hunt was honored at the 2009 Oregon Camp Meeting before more than 2,000 people and on the national

stage in Washington, D.C. at the annual national Liberty Awards Banquet in 2010. The Oregon Workplace Religious Freedom Act is the working model for the federal Workplace Religious Freedom Act proposal before Congress. If that is ever passed and signed by the president, or the next, it will help all people of faith, especially religious minorities, in the workplaces of every state in the Union.

We need to build relationships with more men and women on either side of the political aisle who will champion the values of religious freedom — people like Dave Hunt. Every effort we make to protect the religious freedom of each citizen also benefits the right of every Adventist to carry out our unique mission. Every time we fail to stand up for the religious freedom of others, we lessen our own a little more.

I pray we will come to realize that we have a vitally important public role to play in order to make a difference for religious freedom. Why? So the winds of strife are held back a little longer and more souls can be introduced to Jesus and prepared for His soon coming.

*Gregory Hamilton, Northwest Religious Liberty Association president*

**M**y cell phone rang. It was Jeffrey Britt, a member of the Bremerton Church in Washington.

Jeffrey Britt is a 30-year Navy veteran who decided to come back to work at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) as a civil service employee. His employer was harassing him about requesting time off work to observe Sabbath, and they had a legal document they wanted him to sign.

The document would have required his boss to take sensitivity classes and nothing more. I told him not to sign it and that the Northwest Religious Liberty Association would help him out.

His documentation showed that his employer had not accommodated the Sabbath, and they threatened to fire him. He had to use up his "paid time off" — all because he stood up to a supervisor and politely requested a Sabbath



Charles R. Steinberg, Northwest Religious Liberty Association vice president



Jeffrey Britt, Bremerton (Washington) Church member accommodation.

All parties agreed to mediate the complaint. Two federal mediators were assigned, and the mediation took place in Seattle, Washington. I reminded the PSNS representatives of the long, rich history of Seventh-day Adventists standing up for their constitutional rights, litigating cases up to the U.S. Supreme Court if need be, and that Jeffrey Britt's case was no different in that his employer was required to accommodate the Sabbath.

At the end of the day, his employer agreed, in writing, to help find employees to swap shifts with Mr. Britt — even pay overtime, if necessary, to make sure Britt was accommodated — and reimburse the paid leave he had taken. "If you stand up for God, others will stand with you," says Britt.

The Northwest Religious Liberty Association is here to help with your Sabbath conflicts.

*Charles Steinberg, Northwest Religious Liberty Association vice president*

## RED 2016 EN UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

**R**edimir. Equipar. Discipular. Las tres consignas que definen RED, el evento de entrenamiento de líderes laicos que tuvo lugar el fin de semana

todos, de cualquier generación.

RED continuó al siguiente día con la asistencia y participación de más de 250 líderes hispanos de la Conferencia de Upper

Columbia. Entre ellos hubo ancianos, directores y maestros de escuela sabática, diáconos y diaconisas, directores y asistentes de servicio comunitario, directores y asistentes de obra misionera, y directores y asociados de

jóvenes. Cada uno de estos grupos de líderes recibió entrenamiento específico para su departamento durante el transcurso del día. Cada sesión general inició con alabanzas y adoración dirigidos por el cantante invitado Hugo Yin, quien inspiró y elevó los corazones al cielo a través de la música. El pastor Paul Hoover, presidente de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia estuvo presente en este evento y presentó un seminario a la sesión general titulado “¿Qué tipo de iglesia deseas edificar?” Su presentación concluyó con esta oración: “Yo oro para que como iglesia empecemos a ver a la gente tal como

Dios ve a la gente”. El pastor Mark Weir, ministerial de la misma Conferencia, también estuvo presente y presentó un seminario a la sesión general sobre “¿Qué tipo de relación deseas tener?” reflexionando en las relaciones que Jesús tuvo y que como iglesia deseamos también tener. El sermón del pastor Rojas titulado “¿Qué tipo de líder deseas ser?” dio por terminada la sesión general de la mañana. Varios líderes expresaron la relevancia que estos seminarios tuvieron para sus ministerios en sus respectivas iglesias.

Después del almuerzo provisto al mediodía, los pastores hispanos de la Conferencia organizaron y prepararon seminarios según los departamentos para capacitar y dar herramientas relevantes que cada líder pueda usar y compartir en sus iglesias locales. Además del seminario los pastores proveyeron material impreso para compartir con los líderes, como una publicación de sermones bíblicos con el objetivo de ayudarlos a desarrollarse como predicadores y también material con principios para

establecer y desarrollar grupos pequeños relacionales.

El propósito del evento fue que cada líder pudiera salir del mismo con una idea nueva, con material, o simplemente un anhelo de compartir a Jesús en una forma relacional usando sus dones y liderazgo. El pastor Rojas cerró el evento de RED con una invitación para ser más que miembros y líderes de iglesia; una invitación a ser y hacer discípulos de Cristo. Muchos líderes disfrutaron de las experiencias que el pastor Rojas compartió con ellos, pero el impacto real estuvo en el llamado que él hizo, a terminar la obra que Jesús dejó a la iglesia, de ir y compartir el evangelio que es Jesús.

*Saúl Domínguez, Upper Columbia Conference Distrito de Tri-Cities pastor*

El pastor Jose Rojas fue el orador invitado del evento, compartió temas de gran relevancia y oró con y por los líderes hispanos de esta Conferencia.

del 15 y 16 de enero en Pasco, Wash., bajo el lema “Liderazgo Eclesiástico Relacional.”

RED dio inicio el viernes de noche con una reunión exclusiva para los ancianos de las iglesias hispanas de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia, quienes se reunieron en una cita cerrada para escuchar al orador invitado, el pastor José Rojas, quien explicó las diferencias y las necesidades que existen en las relaciones con las distintas generaciones dentro de las iglesias. El pastor Rojas hizo una invitación especial a los ancianos para que ellos sean la vanguardia que dirige a la iglesia para aceptar y amar a



El cantante Hugo Yin fue invitado para dirigir la adoración y las alabanzas durante el evento.

## ALASKA PASTORS, ELDERS GATHER FOR TRAINING

**I**n the Last Frontier, where districts are remote and pastors and elders are isolated, training takes on a whole new meaning.

In early January, all Alaska pastors, bivocational pastors, Bible workers and missionaries came together on just such an occasion. It started with a delightful fun-filled, Hawaiian-luau themed banquet for all attendees and their families. This was followed by three days of training, small-group work and fellowship.

Walt Williams, retired North American Division ministerial associate and InMinistry Center director, gave several seminars on spiritual growth. Darold Bigger, Walla Walla University assistant to the president, gave excellent presentations on the pastor's role in facilitating forgiveness in the congregation. Many of those attending were impressed with the presentations and the invaluable information they were able to glean from these two speakers.

The following weekend, elders from the various districts joined their pastors, along with missionaries and others who had attended the meetings during the week. They came for joint training on the role of spiritual shepherds in the church.

This training weekend was intense, with back-to-back seminars and workshops throughout the day. Take-home resources were made available to those attending the pastors' meeting as well as the elders' meeting.



(From left) Pastoral couples Tennille and David Shin and Nathan and Gina Stearman enjoy the chance to gather and learn together.

"Single-best training I have ever had as an elder" was one of many comments that were made.

Another said, "I have been going along just thinking my role as an elder was to arrange the church service and preach once in a while. I had no idea what it meant to be a spiritual shepherd of the flock. My eyes have been opened."

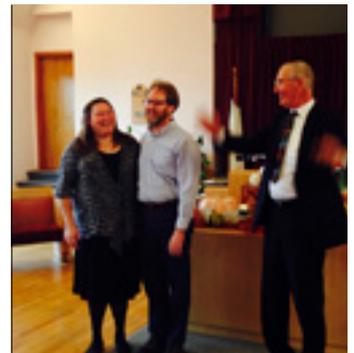
The positive feedback has inspired conference leaders to continue with this yearly training for the pastors and elders to meet together.

*Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president*

## TWO SPECIAL EVENTS BLESS KETCHIKAN MEMBERS

**M**embers of the Ketchikan Church were blessed with two special events in October and November. First, Tracy and Zara Nesbitt joined the Ketchikan Church by profession of faith on Oct. 31, 2015. Then Anthony Lupro joined through baptism on Nov. 7, 2015. Lupro has been studying the Bible with the Nesbitts. Both services were conducted by Don Anderson, pastor.

It is wonderful to witness believers who at their baptism pledge to follow Jesus and publicly express their faith in Him and His forgiveness of their sins. They have accepted by faith the righteousness of Christ, recognizing Him as their Intercessor in the



Tracy and Zara Nesbitt joined the Ketchikan Church through profession of faith.

heavenly sanctuary and claim His promise to strengthen their lives by the Holy Spirit, so they may receive power to do His will.

*Sandy James, Ketchikan Church communication leader*



Anthony Lupro is baptized on Nov. 7, 2015.

## CAMP MEETING IS COMING!

# T

his year, our camp meeting guest speaker/evangelist is Jose Rojas, president of MOVEmentum. As we continue to pursue moving camp meeting back to its evangelistic roots, we are calling this year's gathering an Evangelism Summit, themed "The Time Has Come ... ." The multitude of events happening around us — natural disasters, human tragedies, the prevalence of hate and disrespect for human life — show us that Jesus IS coming soon!

I hope that you will set aside the week of June 14–18 and join us at the 2016 Idaho Conference Camp Meeting: Evangelism Summit. Several great speakers will equip you to minister to neighbors and friends, showing them the love that Jesus has for each of them.

**Jose Vicente Rojas**, MOVEmentum founder and director, has served God and the Adventist Church for more than 30 years as pastor, North American Division (NAD) youth director and NAD Adventist volunteers director and is a sought-after speaker around the world.

**Peter Neri** converted from Catholicism at the age of 26. A former teacher, minister and ministerial director and now pastor of the Paradise Church in Las Vegas, Nev., Neri has a passion for prayer. He strongly believes Jesus is coming very soon and loves to encourage people to get ready and help others to get ready. He and his wife, Jennie, have two married adult sons.

**John McVay** is the Walla Walla University president and former dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in New Testament studies from the University of Sheffield and writes regularly on the Epistle to the Ephesians and the theme of the church in the New Testament. John and his wife, Pam, have two grown children, Marshall and Macy.

**Katia Reinert** is a family nurse practitioner and public health clinical nurse specialist practicing internal medicine at Shepherd's Clinic in Baltimore, Md. She recently served as the NAD health ministries and recovery ministries director. Reinert holds a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., a Master of Science in nursing from Catholic University of America with focus in public health and the treatment of vulnerable populations, and a Doctor of Philosophy in nursing from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, focusing on interdisciplinary research on violence in the family.

As in past years, we will have a baptism on Sabbath evening. Friends, the time has come. While we do not know the day or the hour of Jesus' coming, we are certain it will be soon. I look forward to seeing you for the 2016 Idaho Conference Camp Meeting: Evangelism Summit, at Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell.

*David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president*



Jose Vicente Rojas



Peter Neri



John McVay



Katia Reinert



David Prest Jr.



Pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students learn life skills together.

## BVAS STUDENTS PRACTICE LIFE SKILLS

**L**ife skills are one of the many lessons Dan Tyler, sixth- through eighth-grade teacher at Boise Valley Adventist School, focuses on in his classroom.

This year, Boise Valley Adventist School staff chose to direct their holiday outreach closer to home and support their local community. This local focus started with an idea from Tyler, who wanted to teach his students life skills that can't be learned from a textbook.

That's when the lessons commenced. The first life skill was learned on a field trip to a department store, where the students had to budget money to purchase gifts. The second life skill involved selecting useful, heartfelt gifts. The third life skill came when the students had to wrap the gifts, which were then hand-delivered by BVAS students to residents of a local retirement community.

Additional life skills were developed as church family members solicited help from BVAS students to rake leaves and assemble care packages for elderly shut-ins.

Verna Reinbold, first- and



The art of gift wrapping is a very important skill to learn.

second-grade teacher, wanted to teach a few life skills of her own and took her classroom outreach project one step further to adopt a family in need.

Tyler notes, "In addition to academic and spiritual growth, life skills are an important part of the educational process because those are the skills that will enable students to effectively function and deal with life's challenges. Students need to feel the success of working with their hands and affecting the community in a positive way."

Through this process, students were able to learn some valuable skills and the local community benefited from the gifts that were given and the services that were provided.

*Melanie Lawson, Boise Valley Adventist School teacher*

More online at [glnr.in/111-03-id\\_bvas](http://glnr.in/111-03-id_bvas)

## FOURTH-GRADER WINS GEOGRAPHY BEE

**T**he Caldwell Adventist Elementary School recently hosted a National Geographic Bee for grades four through eight on Friday, Jan. 8. Ten students participated. For the first time in school history, the winner of the bee was a fourth-grader, Jeremy Waterhouse, a resident of Caldwell. Waterhouse will go on to compete with other winners in the state of Idaho and possibly the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Other participants included Anna Stone, eighth grade; Portia Kluchesky, eighth grade; Elie Chen, seventh grade; Caleb Smith, seventh grade; Jenna Waterhouse, sixth grade; Michael Mauricio, sixth grade; Abeni Nosik, fifth grade; Mikalya Creitz, fifth grade; and Everett Stone, fourth grade.

The National Geographic Bee focuses on U.S. landforms, states, capitals, bodies of water, animals, regions, populations, climates and more. Higher rounds of the bee include more world geography facts. Learn



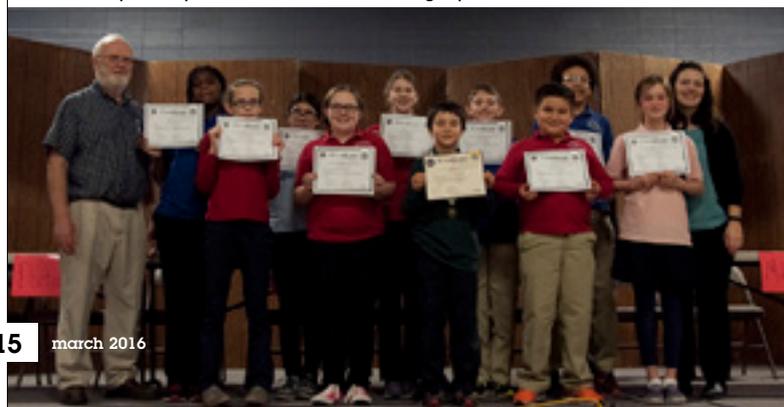
(From left) Susan Winchester, fourth-grade teacher; Jeremy Waterhouse, champion; Ed Harlan, moderator; and Miranda Starr, principal, celebrate Waterhouse's geography knowledge.

more at [nationalgeographic.com/geobee](http://nationalgeographic.com/geobee).

The Caldwell Adventist Elementary School is a private Christian school. Learn more at [mycaes.org](http://mycaes.org).

*Nicole Batten, Caldwell Adventist Elementary School administrative assistant*

Students participate in the National Geographic Bee.



## MOUNT ELLIS STUDENTS EXPLORE PERSONAL FINANCE

**E**ver the 57th winter season, Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) is operating the Bear Canyon Ski area in Bozeman for students and local church members. Students have access to the groomed run twice a week and enjoy snowboarding, skiing and sledding. Some play games in the adjacent ski lodge, while others read around the large fireplace or do homework. For some, that homework is for a new class offered this year: Personal Finance.

When MEA hired Brian Schaffner as the new vice president for finance, he expressed excitement not only to work at MEA but also at the opportunity to teach. Students have long studied accounting, and continue to, but Schaffner proposed the idea of a class specifically intended to teach the importance of saving and the dangers of credit.

This Personal Finance class, utilizing the financial principles of American financial expert Dave Ramsey, had a high enrollment, and, according to Schaffner, the first year was a big success.

"It's very rewarding to see students grasp these financial principles and talk about making positive financial decisions in their adult lives," says Schaffner. "In my opinion, classes like these have not been offered often enough in our

schools. It's vital that young people today understand the upsides of budgeting as well as the pitfalls of poor money management."

Recent class participant Christine Gibbs, an MEA senior, says the class not only made her aware of things she did not know, it started her thinking more seriously about the important role money plays in the life of a responsible adult. "I really thought I'd take Personal Finance because I needed the credit and assumed it would be an easy A," admits Gibbs. "But as the class developed and we looked more seriously at the financial principles based on biblical teachings, I could see that I had a lot to think about when I start a career and make my own money. It was informative and fun, most of the time anyway. And I still got my A."



Students in Personal Finance class gain valuable tools for money management from Brian Schaffner, Mount Ellis Academy vice principal for finance.

With the favorable response his class received this year, Schaffner is looking forward to expanding more young minds next fall as they once again become disciplined in fiscal solvency. "You never know which of these young people might have my job one day" says Schaffner, "and

I want to ensure they have a good foundation both in accounting and in their own finances so they can do their very best at this or any job."

*Kevin Emmerson, Mount Ellis Academy development director*

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## HILLSBORO CHURCH TURNS 100

In a modest Northwest-ern city nestled between the Coast and Cascade mountain ranges, a milestone was passed on Oct. 10, 2015, as the Hillsboro Church celebrated 100 years of Adventist Christian service. Former congregants from near and far came to reminisce with current members, to renew old friendships and to admire the work accomplished over a century.

The festivities began Friday evening, Oct. 9, with vespers. The weekend's master of ceremonies was the current pastor, Viorel Rosca, and the main speaker for the Friday evening program was Christie Shine, daughter of Brad Whited, Hillsboro Church pastor from 1981 to 1986.

The Advent Trombone Quartet provided both classical and sacred music, and other local talent contributed

noteworthy musical selections as well. Shine highlighted the humble beginnings and the continued accomplishments of the Hillsboro Church.

Sabbath kicked off a celebration of memories of former pastors and elders who manned the pulpit throughout the history of the Hillsboro Church. The guest speakers for the Sabbath program included pastors Calvin Hartnell, Dale Ziegele, Christie Shine, Glen Gessele, Weldon Treat, James Ash (in a video message) and Dan Linrud.

A slide presentation covered major events in the church's history, and many members enjoyed recognizing the younger faces of now-older constituents with whom they were sharing pews.

The church was filled for the Sabbath program with members past and present participating together with



The Hillsboro Church celebrated its 100th anniversary highlighting memories of former pastors and elders who manned the pulpit.

fervor. The day culminated in a fellowship dinner as everyone caught up and shared their news.

Heb. 10:24–25 says, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works ... and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” The centennial celebration at Hillsboro Church was certainly in keeping with the letter and the spirit of this verse.

For 100 years Hillsboro Church has stood as a beacon

of light in a small bedroom community. As with many churches, it has had its ups and downs and its congregation has waxed and waned. But until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the prayer for the church on the corner of NE Grant and Fourth Street is that it will continue to be a place where sinners come and saints are born.

*Paul Willis, Hillsboro Church elder*

## SCIENCE ZONE IN ROSEBURG

The schools of southern Oregon were treated to a special program by Ben Roy on Oct. 28, 2015. Roy teaches science lessons on the 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) show *Kids' Time*.

The three-hour Science Zone show was held at Roseburg Junior Academy and was

attended by about 100 students from the area. A variety of demonstrations were interspersed with spiritual insights related to each one. Following the program, the group ate lunch and then, while the teachers received more training in teaching science, the students played organized games.



*Carol Hartzell, Canyonville Adventist Elementary School teacher*

## LIVINGSTONE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COUNTY COMPETITION

**S**haron Cutz's fifth- and sixth-grade students at Livingstone Adventist Academy in Salem participate each year in the Marion County Public Works Environmental Services Recycle Art calendar competition.

This year's theme was "Save the Food." Out of the 14 students who won, two are from Cutz's class. Madison Dryden, a sixth-grader, and Gery DePena, fifth-grader, each won a \$50 gift card along with a great art kit presented

by the Marion County Board of Commissioners at a televised ceremony broadcast on Channel 22 news.

DePena says, "I just did it for fun [and] didn't expect to win. But it was awesome to actually win something."

Dryden describes her win as "pretty cool." This proved to be a great project for the kids to learn how to recycle and be rewarded for their efforts.

*Sherry Galvez, Livingstone Adventist Academy teacher*

(From left) Gery DePena, fifth-grader, and Madison Dryden, sixth-grader, display their winning art.



## CAA EXPERIENCES THE MAGIC OF GIVING

**O**ne of Webster's definitions of magic is "an extraordinary power or influence seemingly from a supernatural source." That would certainly be the perfect description of what took place on Nov. 19, 2015, at the Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) annual worthy student fundraiser.

Students Kyle and Mitchell, just back to this Battle Ground, Wash., school after a trip to Alaska to help with a week of prayer, shared their testimony and music. Magician Pete McLeod showcased acts of magic, both explainable and unexplainable.

But the real magic for the night came through the testimony of keynote speaker and CAA alumna Brithny Ochoa and the community response to her address. Ochoa, the first member of her family to attend college, told of her mom's financial struggles to afford Christian education and the way the community rallied to make sure Ochoa was at Columbia.

"Brithny's story needs to be shared so more people can realize the impact their

generosity has on students' lives in this community," says Rick Bowes, pastor of the neighboring Meadow Glade Church.

Giving and philanthropy at Columbia aren't limited to fundraisers alone, as exemplified by community outreach programs and the giving of gifts. Community outreach has included chapels and weeks of prayer for elementary schools, working with the community service center, and handbell performances. Students also generously provide gifts to others and the school, from class gifts to Christmas gifts for Head Start kids.

The magical and surprising response to Ochoa's address this year also brought joy to all involved: a total of more than \$160,000 going toward student scholarships and assistance. With the history of the generous community that supports CAA, it shouldn't be a surprise. But God's gifts often surprise us, from a Baby born in a manger to a King willing to die for His people.

*Larry Hiday, CAA Gleaner correspondent*

More online at [glnr.in/111-03-or\\_caa](http://glnr.in/111-03-or_caa)

More photos online at  
[glnr.in/111-03-or\\_paa](http://glnr.in/111-03-or_paa)

# PAA SENIOR PROJECTS DEMONSTRATE GREATNESS

**W**hat do a fashion show, building a drone and climbing mountains have in common?

They are examples of exceptional first-semester senior projects produced by Portland Adventist Academy students.

“Peakbagging” for his senior project, Austin Smith climbed 119 mountains with a cumulative elevation gain of 242,800 feet. He also added and climbed 15 unclimbed peaks to the Peakbagger database. Even more impressive, at age 17, Smith became the youngest person to climb the 20 largest Cascade volcanoes.

Daniel Stathem spent more than 100 hours building a drone so he could capture more-compelling images for videography and photography. He created a time-lapse video of his work that included footage taken by the drone from hundreds of feet in the air.

Charli Jo Davis designed and created a clothing line. The five-piece fashion collection was designed, sewn, photographed and modeled in a fashion show. The project took her more than 70 hours to complete.

The senior project is the most rigorous graduation requirement at PAA. The projects measure students’ ability to succeed with the life skills developed during their high



PAA senior Austin Smith (back left) is the youngest person to summit the 20 largest Cascade volcanoes. The Smith family, including Mark (back right), Amber (front left) and Brenda (front right), celebrated on the summit of Broken Top Mountain in central Oregon, Austin’s 20th and final peak on the list.

school careers. It’s an opportunity for students to show what they know.

The course descriptions says, “Students should demonstrate the various cognitive, manipulative and composition skills they’ve mastered.” This includes skills like organization, analysis, effective verbal and written communication, the use of technology, and more.

The seniors say it’s effective. “I learned a lot about working around other people’s schedules and time management,” says Stathem. “I definitely improved my people skills.”

“Time was my biggest challenge,” says Davis. “Coordinating fittings with my models and working with

deadlines and schedules — it’s all very complicated.”

But it was worth it. “Going into this project, I had no idea how much there is to know about peakbagging,” admits Smith. “My knowledge of the concepts, principles,

rules, history and personalities has grown far more than I ever anticipated. It has opened the door for incredible opportunities. It even gave me the chance to do a two-day climb with one of the most important American peakbaggers.”

“It was a great way to showcase what I do and to share my personality and creativity,” says Davis.

“I loved my senior project,” says Stathem. “I believe this is a project that will impact my future in great ways. Drones are part of an evolving industry. This could be the start of a business.”

“This is my life passion,” says Smith “and I will continue on with my climbing adventures for the rest of my life.”

*Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent*



For his senior project, Daniel Stathem built a drone and created a time-lapse video of his work that included footage filmed from hundreds of feet in the air.



PETER HERNANDEZ

More than 150 people enjoy Milo Academy Church's first Community Connection picnic.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS MADE AT MILO

**M**ilo Academy Church's inaugural Community Connection event on Aug. 9, 2015, by all accounts was a resounding

attended the event, more than 50 of whom had no connection to the church or school. According to Reisig, "Most of the community folk had never crossed the bridge before."

Chef Allyn Birth and his team prepared a build-your-own "nachos supreme" taco salad buffet, also known as "haystacks" at the academy.

"I received nothing but positive feedback from our neighbors," Reisig reports. "Many asked when we could do this again."

*Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter*



PETER HERNANDEZ

Larry Sample, Maranatha volunteer from Salem, enjoyed the Community Connection event.

success. The church presented a free picnic supper at the historic Milo Academy bridge for all residents of the Milo, Days Creek and Tiller communities.

Chad Reisig, Milo Academy Church pastor, says, "[The event] was born out of an old youth group adage: 'If you feed them, they will come.' Essentially, it was the concept of creating an inviting environment where the community can just get to know us as neighbors and begin to develop relationships."

More than 150 people



PETER HERNANDEZ

Smokey Bear made an appearance to remind everyone about the importance of fire safety.

## LIVINGSTONE GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

**F**or more than a year, staff have tackled the adventure of doing one service day a month for both the elementary school and the high school at Livingstone Adventist Academy in Salem.

When it began, the monthly service day posed numerous challenges like finding community service opportunities, connecting with various service agencies, scheduling various age differences doing service at the locations and finding drivers for each classroom to go to a different organization.

By the end of the year, a senior was telling members of the McMinnville Church how frustrated he was at first that he had to do so much community service. He then shared how it had such a powerful impact on him by the end of the year. He was hooked.

Things improved month by month. The second year has taken Livingstone students a step further. They are now working on a three-part program that includes working with harvesting food for three months, processing food for three months and then distributing food for three months.

Students and staff have worked for more than 10 different organizations on a regular basis. They have sorted books to give to children of needy families, prepared Christmas packages for needy kids through the Salvation



(From left) Bethany Tep Gordillo and Andrea Rinza help out their community.

Army and made cards for multiple organizations.

Recently, the Marion/Polk County Foodshare representative told how important Livingstone had become to the foodshare. He said that, even though Livingstone students didn't come as often as many other groups, they were the No. 2 processor of food for the whole organization. He explained that these students were well-respected for working faster and harder than any other group.

It was amazing that students could have such a powerful impact in such a short period of time. They are really acting like the hands and feet of Jesus.

*Keith Bowman, Livingstone Adventist Academy chaplain and teacher*

(From left) Karson Tataryn and Ryan Wheeling participate in Livingstone's community service days.





More photos online at  
glnr.in/111-03-uc\_bandclinic

## UCA BAND CLINIC ENCOURAGES YOUNG PERFORMERS

**A**h, the sounds of instruments tuning. These sounds suggest something great is coming shortly thereafter, and great it was as the Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) Band Clinic participants joined to form a large band on Sabbath, Jan. 23, in Spangle, Wash., treating attendees to the finale of the participants' time together.

ship while performing with a much larger group than they have at home.

Dean Kravig, UCA band director, coordinates the three-day event, which also features instrument clinics presented by local professionals. Learning from professionals in these clinics helps students see what is possible on their specific instruments and learn new techniques and skills that will help them progress as musicians.

Kravig has been coordinating the UCA Band Clinic for 10 years and greatly appreciates the hard work and support from the Upper Columbia Conference schools that attend. His desire is that the Band Clinic will give students and directors a new passion for instrumental music and some new concepts that will help them develop their talents for God's glory.

Natasha Rogers, a seventh-grader from Upper Columbia Academy Elementa-



RICHARD RASMUSSEN

Dean Kravig, UCA band director, coordinates the three-day Band Clinic, held every other year at Upper Columbia Academy.

ry School in Spangle, practiced her clarinet on her own time so she could participate in the Band Clinic. Her school doesn't currently have a band. "The music Mr. Kravig chose was really challenging," she says, "but I enjoyed being able to play with a band."

Students on the yearbook staff who were not part of the Band Clinic interviewed clinic participants. They found a number of students appreciated the chance to meet new people and learn new music. "There are a lot of kids, and I get to make friends with them," says Carly Haeger, a percussion player from Brewster (Wash.) Adventist Christian School.

Jordyn Morgan, a trombone player from Crestview Christian School in Moses Lake, Wash., valued the instrument clinics, while Michael Stacy, baritone saxophone player from Palisades Christian

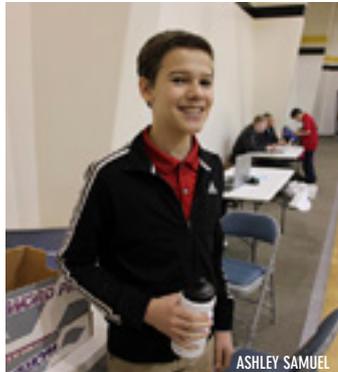
Academy in Spokane, Wash., appreciated having the break from school.

"My favorite part about Band Clinic is the good food and the opportunity to enjoy, play and share music," reports Allen Stafford, trumpet player from Yakima (Wash.) Adventist Christian School.

The UCA Band Clinic Festival Concert is available to view online at [uccaa.org/live](http://uccaa.org/live).

The next event designed especially for elementary students is the UCA Academy Day, scheduled for Thursday, April 7. To register or schedule a visit for another time, please call 509-245-3600 or email [info@uccaa.org](mailto:info@uccaa.org).

*Tamara Michalenko Terry, Upper Columbia Academy communication coordinator*



ASHLEY SAMUEL

Allen Stafford, trumpet player from Yakima (Wash.) Adventist Christian School, says, "My favorite part about Band Clinic is the good food and the opportunity to enjoy, play and share music."

For the first time, the Festival Concert was streamed live so family and friends could watch online if they were not able to join in person.

Designed for students in grades seven through 12, this biennial event gives students the opportunity to develop their technique and musician-



SIDNEY ALLISON

Jordyn Morgan (far right), trombone player from Crestview Christian School in Moses Lake, Wash., enjoys the instrument clinics along with the food UCA provides.

## WALLA WALLA STUDENTS SCREEN THE BLUEPRINT

**N**early 150 stalwart supporters of Adventist education braved the cold and dark of evening on Jan. 5 to join acclaimed filmmaker Martin Doblmeir for a screening of his documentary, *The Blueprint*. The screening was hosted by Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) for Walla Walla University.

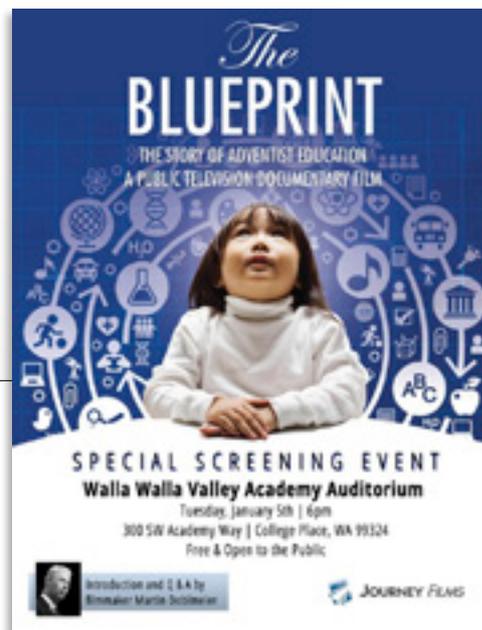
*The Blueprint*, which was released on PBS in 2014, explores the daily lives of teachers and students in Adventist schools throughout the country — from large schools to small rural and

inner city schools. The film focuses on how the unique whole-child approach to education — which includes mind, body and spirit — is associated with transforming lives. The movie also looks at the challenges of funding and commitment that dominate the time of so many educators and church leaders.

“We were grateful the university asked us to be part of Mr. Doblmeir’s visit to the valley,” says Brian Harris, WWVA principal. “It is incredibly important that we do not take what Adventist education offers for granted.

Seeing our educational system through fresh eyes reminds us how special this approach is, and it reinvigorates our commitment to more than just curriculum, but to each of our students.”

After the film, Doblmeir remained to answer questions from the audience for about half an hour. “You all have braved this cold winter Tuesday night to come out and see a movie, and I appreciate it. And Ellen White would be so proud,” he said.



If you are interested in purchasing this film or learning more about its award-winning filmmaker, visit <http://the-blueprint-film.com> or talk to your local Adventist Book Center distributor.

*Elaine Blake Hinshaw, Walla Walla Valley Academy marketing and recruitment director*

## MILTON CHURCH PARTICIPATES IN LIGHT PARADE

**F**or the first time, Milton Church entered a float in the Milton-Freewater (Ore.) Light Parade.

This was something members hoped and planned for all year. The emphasis was advertising the upcoming Journey to Bethlehem (JTB) nativity event.

Of the parade’s 29 floats, the church’s was the only one with a Christian emphasis — not only did members advertise JTB, they gave witness to the true meaning of Christmas.

*Nancy Canwell, Milton Church member*



## UCA STAFF, STUDENTS CLEAN UP WINDSTORM DAMAGE

The bright morning sunshine was a nice change from the darkness village students experienced in their homes before heading to classes at Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash. Many village students lost power in the windstorm that struck on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015, and had no definite answer as to when it would come back. Thankfully, the

working around campus and in downtown Spangle to clear trees and clean up limbs and debris that had been blown around during the windstorm.

“Too bad HOPE day wasn’t today,” said Polly Officer, UCA senior, referring to how students and staff had spent the previous day in and around Spokane assisting organizations as part of their quarterly HOPE (Helping Other People Everywhere) projects. Amanda Goad, HOPE coordinator, was in contact with organizations to see if they could use student help with cleanup for part of the next day.

Chris Kramer, UCA maintenance director, and his team surveyed the damage to the dorms,

greenhouse, faculty houses, trees and campus. “The girls’ dorm southwest corner and the west end of the music building had the most roof damage,” he says. While covering the damage to the girls’ dorm roof during the storm, both Kramer and Grant Williams, assistant maintenance staff, had their glasses blown off their faces.

In addition to roof damage, downed trees and pine



CHRIS KRAMER

Roofing company employees work to repair damage to the UCA girls’ dorm after the windstorm sheared the flat roofing.

branches were everywhere. “Considering the amount of wind we had, we are really fortunate,” says Kramer.

The task seemed overwhelming when Kramer started the day, but, one by one, staff and students started helping. “I’ve never seen anything like it,” Kramer says. “I am so appreciative of the help, especially from the students. Their school spirit really came through.”

“Within a matter of hours, staff and students transformed the campus from a windstorm to a peaceful place,” says Florence Lacey, UCA vice principal for academics. “We certainly have more that needs to be repaired, but the improvements the staff and students made to the campus were definitely noticed and appreciated.”

“It is great for our students to see Christianity in action,” Winslow adds. “It speaks to their character when a student sees a need and says, ‘What can I do to help?’ Whether they realize it or not, they are exemplifying Matt. 25:35. We couldn’t be more proud of our staff’s and students’ willingness to help when there was a need.”

View more photos of the wind storm damage via Facebook.

*Tamara Michalenko Terry, Upper Columbia Academy communication coordinator*



TAMARA TERRY

Pastor Fred Riffel teaches students the importance of helping where needed as he trims branches off a fallen tree for students to pile for pickup.

dorms continued to have power even though many faculty houses remained without warmth and electricity.

John Winslow, UCA principal, was on campus bright and early Wednesday clearing the pathway for students to enter the Administration Building for classes. Following the traditional Wednesday assembly, more than 50 students joined staff



Polly Officer, a UCA senior, helps rake debris covering the roadway.

Expanded thoughts available online  
at [glnr.in/111-03-wa\\_tapestry](http://glnr.in/111-03-wa_tapestry)

## TAPESTRY OF FAITH

Maya Angelou writes, "We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color."

Recently, I attended a caucus meeting for African-American leaders in the North American Division (NAD). I sat and listened to division, union and conference presidents and other African-American leaders discuss the plight of the African-American work in the NAD.



EuGene Lewis

While I found the dialogue provocative, most importantly, I was more interested in what was not being said: Are regional conferences even relevant anymore? If so, what is their current role within the NAD organizational structure?

Specificity, the exclusive ministering to one people group without regard for another people group, is racist, evil, anti-Elle White and biblically impotent if it is its own goal. However, specificity with an open mind to the gospel can be an open door to the Holy Spirit's leading, a blessing, and the impetus to racial and ethnic reconciliation.

### TWO EXAMPLES

That's how the first-century church got started. The disciples were given specific instruction to start their work among their own in Jerusalem and then go to all nations, tongues and peoples.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, what started as a regional work ended up becoming the thread that opened the door to inclusion and diversity. It happen with the first-century church, and I saw it happen once right here in the Pacific Northwest.

Some years ago, I was given a call to pastor the East Central Community Adventist Church in Spokane, Wash. The church was small, with 12 members: seven whites and five blacks. It was estimated that 75 percent of Spokane County minorities lived on the east side of Spokane. My task was to evangelize to the 2 percent of African-Americans living there.

Although our goal was to specifically reach out to African-Americans, the Holy Spirit had something else in mind. We went fishing for African-Americans, but the Holy Spirit brought others into the net relative to the ratio we started out with. The church grew from our original 12 members to 171 souls: 92 white Americans, 73 African-Americans and six Native Americans in less than four years, without ever running a crusade.

What began as an ideal, a specific thread, weaved itself into a diverse and rich tapestry of people of equal value worshipping and working together to the glory of God.

Until we are willing to do what the first-century church did and do away with Roman society values, privilege and otherwise, there will always be a need for specificity within our work and regional conferences. My prayer is for God to help us to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as we minister to our communities.

Read expanded thoughts on this topic at [glnr.in/111-03-wa\\_tapestry](http://glnr.in/111-03-wa_tapestry).

*EuGene Lewis, Washington Conference regional ministries coordinator*

## BIG PICTURE OF MINISTRY



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

South Sound Adventist pastors are working with Shawn Boonstra and the Voice of Prophecy team to present Revelation Speaks Peace in spring 2017 at a facility under construction in Puyallup.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Youth Rally brought 200 teenagers and chaperones together to look at the prodigal son story from three perspectives and to find their own home within the church.



JONATHAN BAUMGARTNER

In January, 450 people gathered to honor the life and ministry of Pastor Larry Zuchowski (1947–2015). He had a heart for God, for his family and for his church. He never lost the wonder of encountering, knowing and experiencing God and helping others do the same.

## ADVOCATE GROUP HELPS FAMILIES BREAK CYCLE OF ABUSE

**D**omestic violence is a persistent issue in Pierce County that generates 70 percent of police calls, signifying deeply rooted family needs.

Our Sisters' House (OSH), a Tacoma-based advocacy organization, is finding effective ways to help families break the cycle of abuse and form better family units. Their efforts are appreciated and recognized by Pierce County juvenile programs and a Proclamation Award from the city of Tacoma last October.

"We're trying to break down generations of abuse," says Kelli Robinson, OSH executive director. "Many parents don't know how to parent because they were victims of abuse and neglect."

While Our Sisters' House started in 1995 to help runaway teens, the organization now offers three recognized

programs for empowering women, giving teens and their families new direction, and teaching children stepping stones to a better future. (For program descriptions, visit [oursistershouse.com](http://oursistershouse.com).)

New Directions is a key program in the OSH arsenal of family help. Pierce County sends teenagers in diversion (arrested, but not charged, for crimes ranging from domestic violence to vandalism and assault) to learn better life strategies.

"You can tell how much this impacts families," says Corallyn Story, OSH program assistant. "It's incredible how much people vouch for that program. It's really inspiring to see."

When Robinson saw how well New Directions was integrated into a local community host church, she offered her own church the opportunity to

get involved. Mount Tahoma Church in Tacoma agreed to be the host site for a new Women Empowered group where a session of five women learn how to become self-sufficient after domestic violence.

"We like partnering with churches because they take on a group as a ministry," Robinson says, noting how churches also form additional connections.

Mount Tahoma, for example, also hosts a community health class in a first-time cooperation with Tacoma Central Church as well as Voice of Hope and Open Bible churches in Lakewood. With referrals between the women's program and the health class, more families are receiving the help they need.

"We call our advocates 'boots on the ground' because they see specific needs every day," Robinson says. "The

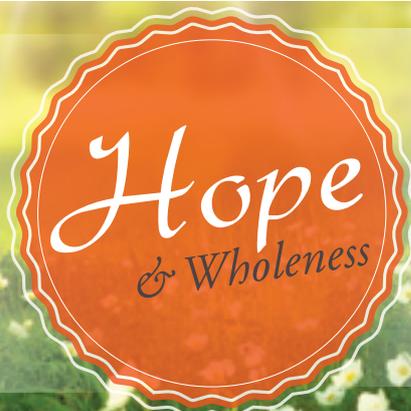


Domestic violence advocates Rosalind Starks, Deborah Potter, Kelli Robinson and Mona Baghdadi display the Our Sisters' House Proclamation Award from the city of Tacoma.

needs are really high, and we're finding ways to fill the gaps. We need more people to get involved in addressing domestic violence and strengthening the family unit."

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*

*Derek Morris  
Stan Hudson  
John Kurlinski  
Kevin Wilfley  
Shawn Boonstra*



**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST  
CAMP MEETING**

June 16–25, 2016  
Auburn, Washington

*Registration and Details*  
[washingtonconference.org](http://washingtonconference.org)

More online at  
glnr.in/11-03-wa\_psaa

## PSAA MAKES COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS THROUGH CHOIR

American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote, "Music is the universal language of mankind." The members of the Puget Sound Adventist Academy (PSAA) choir agree. The unique experience of being a part of this Kirkland group is led by Walla Walla University graduate and music aficionado Elton Zebzon, assisted by his wife and PSAA English/Spanish instructor, Anika Zebzon.

Through a repertoire rich with gospel, ethnic, pop, jazz and classical pieces, students learn complex vocal arrangements enhanced with choreography. While exceptional music is key, an overarching goal of the PSAA choir is to witness to their community with their enthusiastic sets.

In addition to church performances, students performed for a large lunch crowd at this year's Seattle Center Winterfest, a Christmas concert series. Yearly tours also provide unique opportunities for the PSAA choir to make invaluable, life-changing connections.

Zebzon recalls a concert at the Lloyd Center mall in

Portland, Ore. "One woman shared she had felt impressed to go to the mall that day and had no idea why," he explains. "She believed the concert was why."

This spring, choir members anticipate performing at Maranatha Church's Each One Reach One community



The PSAA choir brings holiday cheer and spirit to Seattle Center's Winterfest.

service day on April 9 to raise money for homeless services and evangelistic efforts in Seattle. Later in April, the PSAA choir and band will tour Washington, D.C.

PSAA's choir looks forward to continuing to witness and share the message of happiness, love and salvation through the language of music. For upcoming performance dates, visit the PSAA school calendar at [psaa.org](http://psaa.org).

*Anika Zebzon, Puget Sound Adventist Academy teacher*



MAKENA HORTON

From the first year of Auburn's academic program in 1919 to the 96th year, students and faculty build a school family bond outside of the classroom through planned activities and play time.

## AUBURN PLANS STUDENT PLAY TIME

Feet gripped the floor. Hands held the rope tight. Bodies strained in either direction. Freshmen and sophomores struggled back and forth, with each class trying to win the tug of war.

But it wasn't just immediate class peers cheering. The seniors ran over to encourage the freshmen team to a win.

"That is the kind of school spirit we appreciate, when we cannot only work hard together but also laugh and play together," says Stacy Tejel, one of Auburn Adventist Academy's associated student body sponsors.

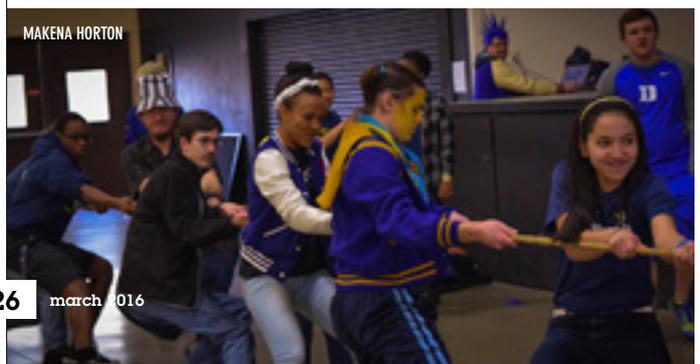
Auburn Academy hosts a school spirit week twice a year to usher in a new semester, welcome new students, celebrate the completion of second-semester finals and help students bond.

Each class earns points for Best Dressed thematic costumes and plays a variety of group games. While the senior class, with 48 students, earned the most points, the real winner of the week was a united and growing student body of seniors plus 62 freshmen, 66 sophomores and 52 juniors.

"As a school family learns together, it also needs to play together," says John Soule, AAA principal. "We took time to play ... This brought us closer together as a school family and helped students and teachers get to know each other in a new, real way as we cheered for each other."

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director, and Stacy Tejel, AAA teacher*

Each class level faces off in a tug of war at Auburn Adventist Academy.



MAKENA HORTON

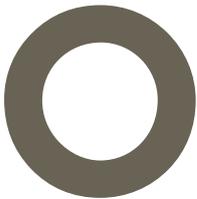
More online at  
[glnr.in/111-03-wa\\_mission](http://glnr.in/111-03-wa_mission)



The Neuharths and Alfonzo celebrate a new friendship built on a love for Christ.



## DRUNK MAN BUILDS CHURCH, CHOOSES SOBRIETY



Over Christmas break, the Neuharth family, members of the Startup Church, joined Mexico Mission and Beyond for a mission trip with about 75 other Adventists, ages 7 to 70, in Poza Rica, Vera Cruz, Mexico.

During their mission trip, group members built five churches and held Vacation Bible School, health expos and evangelistic meetings.

As the mission group constructed a church in the remote village of Papantla, a man approached the locals and asked to work. They turned him down because he was clearly drunk. He then asked Lisa Neuharth if he could work. Lisa told him he needed to go sleep and could work when he wasn't drunk, but he persisted.

Lisa prayed with the man, hoping he would get some peace and leave, but he insisted he could work. Finally, she gave him a job sifting sand

with her 11-year-old son, Levi.

Because the man, Alfonzo, was drunk, it took many tries to explain the simple job of shoveling sand. But Alfonzo proved persistent and energetic.

Soon, though, he began to crave another drink and slipped away. Within moments, young Levi noticed his friend was gone, chased him down and brought him back before he was able to drink.

Alfonzo collapsed in tears. He was 33 years old and had been an alcoholic his entire life. He wanted to change, but he

said he had tried and could not.

The group prayed for Alfonzo and encouraged him. He began to walk away several times, but each time Levi diligently brought him back.

When Alfonzo left that evening, Lisa didn't expect to see him again. But as the mission team returned the following day to finish the church, Alfonzo was sober and working extremely hard.

That evening, Alfonzo returned to his home, showered, put on his best clothes and came to the evangelistic series.

Levi sat right beside him.

As the week progressed, Alfonzo continued to remain sober and came to each evangelistic meeting. At the end of the week, the speaker offered a call for baptism. Alfonzo wanted to go up but hesitated. Levi quickly joined him in going forward.

Though language, culture, age and home addresses separated Alfonzo and Levi, the love of God bound them together for eternity. The mission group had the privilege of seeing Alfonzo baptized that Sabbath. Levi hopes to see his friend on another mission trip, but, if not, they will meet again in heaven.

God needs missionaries everywhere — in the United States, in our workplaces and even in our homes. The Neuharths returned home ready to be missionaries anywhere and having faith that God will use them, no matter the obstacles.



Alfonzo's baptism comes after he sobered up to work with a mission group near his home in Mexico.

*Lisa Neuharth, Startup Church communication leader*

## ASWWU PROJECT WELCOMES 'ONE OF THESE'

One day, Jesus sat down on the ground and called for His disciples to gather near Him.

“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all,” He told them. Jesus then brought a little child into the circle. With the child in His arms He told His disciples, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me” (Mark 9:35–37).

Each year, the Associated Students of Walla Walla University (ASWWU) strive to meet Christ’s call to servanthood with a Global Service Project. Previous projects include Mission Mozambique, which raised \$86,000 for sustainable water sources, and To Build a Home,

which raised \$100,000 to build an orphanage in Uganda where WWU students currently serve as missionaries.

This year’s project is called One of These, a reference to Jesus’ instruction to His disciples in Mark 9 to embrace the children of the world. One of the most profound gifts a child can receive is an education, and that is what ASWWU is working to give the children of Bangka Island in Indonesia.

Bangka Island, just north of Indonesia’s capital city of Jakarta, has about 1 million residents and limited access to education. Through One of These, ASWWU seeks to enable the Adventist mission on Bangka by opening Bangka Island Adventist School. The school will be self-supporting and National-Plus accredited — a status achieved by Indonesian schools that teach

English in addition to meeting countrywide curriculum standards. Students who are given a multilingual foundation have a broader range of career opportunities.

To this end, ASWWU is working to raise \$35,000 for the opening and initial operation of the school. This includes facility expenses, teacher salaries, utilities, renovations and school supplies.

“This project will not only provide opportunities through education, but it will also introduce these students to Jesus Christ and the love He has for them,” says Justin Mock, ASWWU global service director and senior business administration and health science major.

“Projects like these are great,” says Mock, “because they unify the [WWU] campus through collaboration and

cooperation. Clubs, classes and other groups all come together to reach the common goal. By developing a dedication to service here at WWU, we hope to create in people a desire to serve throughout their lifetimes.”

To learn more about how to get involved, watch the ASWWU One of These video at [wallawalla.edu/ASWWUGlobalService](http://wallawalla.edu/ASWWUGlobalService) or send an email to ASWWU. [GlobalService@wallawalla.edu](mailto:GlobalService@wallawalla.edu).

*Zachary White, WWU university relations student writer*

WWU students, faculty and staff and members of the community hit the ground running on Jan. 24 for the 5K Tropical Trot, an ASWWU Global Service event that raised \$1,142 for the Bangka Island Project.





Adventist health system leaders meet in Washington, D.C., to discuss health policy.

## ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM EXECUTIVES MEET LAWMAKERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Meredith Jobe, vice president and general counsel, and Tom Russell, former vice president for population health, represented Adventist Health at the Annual Advocacy Day sponsored by the Adventist Health Policy Association (AHPA) last fall in Washington, D.C. The group of 20 AHPA leaders from five systems met with 40 congressional offices to share AHPA's *Five Steps to Health in America: A Health Policy Agenda for the*

*Next President and Congress of the United States.*

The book, built on the Seventh-day Adventist health legacy, makes 75 recommendations to improve the physical, emotional and spiritual health of the communities Adventists serve. The group also discussed issues related to health care payment reform and regulatory modernization. Visit [AdventistHealthPolicy.org](http://AdventistHealthPolicy.org) to view a PDF version of the book.

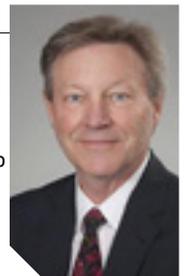
## LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington's Walla Walla General Hospital welcomes Jaci Cress into the role of director of spiritual care. Cress graduated with a degree in theology and a minor in biblical languages from Walla Walla University in 2005 and went on to complete a Master of Divinity in 2009 from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Cress has completed four units of clinical pastoral education at Florida Hospital in Orlando, where she previously spent five years ministering as a chaplain. Most recently, she served as an adjunct professor both at Adventist University of Health Sciences (formerly

Florida Hospital College) in Orlando and in the Walla Walla University religion department.

Adventist Health Medical Group in Portland, Ore., is pleased to welcome its new chief medical officer, Ralph Prows. In his role, Prows will provide vision, direction and



Ralph Prows has come to Adventist Health Medical Group in Portland, Ore., as chief medical officer.

education to the 133 providers who deliver exceptional care to patients served by Adventist Health's 34 clinics in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area.



Walla Walla General Hospital in Washington has welcomed Jaci Cress as director of spiritual care.

## ADVENTIST HEALTH'S ROSEVILLE OFFICE RECEIVES GOLD-LEVEL WELL WORKPLACE AWARD

Adventist Health's Roseville, Calif., office is one of only 28 companies nationwide — and the only one in California — to receive gold-level recognition in 2015 for its commitment to worksite wellness. The Wellness Council of America (WELCOA) uses a rigorous set of criteria when evaluating organizations that compete to be recognized as among America's healthiest companies.

Systemwide, Adventist Health's worksite wellness initiative is known as LivingWell, a whole-person

health and wellness program that encourages employees to take an active role in their well-being. LivingWell, which was originally created at

Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., offers classes, activities and fitness challenges to help employees set and achieve health goals.

System leadership has challenged Adventist Health

employees to maintain their BMI (body mass index) by 2017, defying the annual weight-gain trend in America. Reaching this goal means Adventist Health employees will collectively keep off 300,000 pounds by 2020, the equivalent of four fully loaded 18-wheel trucks. The ultimate goal is to lower health risks, increase energy to serve patients, and enjoy time with family and friends.

Watch the CIM video at [bit.ly/ahCIM](http://bit.ly/ahCIM)

*Shelby Seibold, Adventist Health communication specialist*

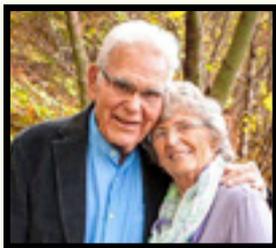


## FAMILY MILESTONES

### Brown 60th

Ben and Elaine Brown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren this fall surrounded by the beauty of the Columbia Gorge in Oregon.

Ben met Elaine Evanko while enrolled in Union College's nursing program on the Denver, Colo., campus.



Ben and Elaine Brown

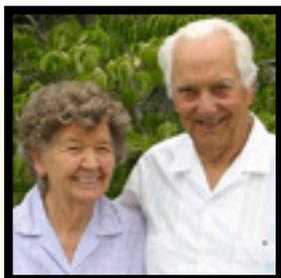
They were married on Sept. 15, 1955, in Butte, N.D.

Ben and Elaine moved to Moses Lake, Wash., in 1962, where they made their home and raised their three daughters. Ben retired from his anesthesia practice in 1999, while Elaine retired as the head of the nursing department at Big Bend Community College in 1986.

The Brown family includes Tammy (Brown) and Mel MacPhee of Gresham, Ore.; Linda Brown of Portland, Ore.; Daina (Brown) Williams of Portland; 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

### Larsen 65th

Eskild and Iris Larsen celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with church members and family, including six who traveled from Denmark for the occasion and their son David, who traveled from California for the occasion. The dinner reception took place at the Valley View East Wenatchee (Wash.) Church on July 12, 2015, and included many authentic Danish desserts.



Iris and Eskild Larsen

Eskild and Iris Mary Schjødt Jensen met at the Danish Junior College, Vejlebjergskolen. From there they both went on to Skodsborg Badensanatorium, studying an additional five years to be physical therapists. They married on July 11, 1950.

While still in their 20s, the couple decided they wanted to go to the United States to live. They traveled across the Atlantic Ocean on the *RMS Queen Elizabeth*, a five-day trip. They were very excited to see the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor as they arrived on the American shore.

Eskild had an uncle in Battle Creek, Mich., and had a job lined up there. But Michigan was not the Larsens' desired destination. Hearing that physical therapists were needed in California, the Larsens continued west, only to be disappointed upon their arrival. There was no job.

But a health doctor in California helped Eskild get a job at Kaiser near the Santa Monica coast, where he worked for five or 10 years before setting up an office near Beverly Hills with two partners. One of these partners, who had good connections in the Jewish community of Los Angeles, found clients, while Eskild and the other partner provided care.

Meanwhile, Iris provided physical therapy and massage services in private homes.

Eskild continued in this business until he retired at age 62. They moved to Wenatchee, Wash., in 2009.

Their family includes

David and Kathy Larsen of California; Jack and Shauna Larsen of East Wenatchee, Wash.; Anne Larsen of Wenatchee, Wash.; and 3 grandchildren.

### Saunders 60th

William and Mary Jane Saunders celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 8, 2015, in College Place, Wash.

Bill met Mary Jane Jolly on a church-sponsored hayride in 1953. Bill entered the U.S. Coast Guard air rescue service in 1955 while Mary Jane finished high school. They were married Nov. 8, 1955, in Argos, Ind.



William and Mary Jane Saunders

Their family includes Bill Jr. and Nancy (Larson) Saunders of Acampo, Calif.; Sheiron and Mike Christensen of Sunnyside, Wash.; Debra Saunders of College Place, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

### Tadej 90th

Peter Tadej celebrated his 90th birthday by returning to Fort Benton, Mont., where he was born, Aug. 20, 1925. Many of his Montana relatives joined him. Upon returning to Walla Walla, Wash., where he lives with his wife, Jeanie, there was a second birthday celebration with his three living children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

After serving in World War II, Peter worked on a farm



Peter Tadej

near Fort Benton, where he lived with his late wife, Lorine. They had three daughters and later two boys.

One day, a Walla Walla College student came by selling books and left a free Bible correspondence course card. The Tadejs were not attending any church, but Lorine enrolled in the course and soon started attending the local Adventist church. When she asked Peter to study with her, he replied, "Well, it didn't hurt you, so maybe it won't hurt me." They both were baptized in 1951.

Peter felt impressed to help others find the same happiness he found. He became a literature evangelist and served the church in different capacities for 35 years. His leader told him, "Remember it is easier to succeed than to explain why you didn't."

That motto kept him going on many days, even when it was 40 degrees below zero. He recalls a night in Shelby, Mont., when the wind was blowing, it was snowing, and he knew it would be impossible to drive the 30 miles back home, so he just kept knocking on doors.

A middle-aged couple listened to his canvass on *Drama of the Ages* for a few minutes, then the man said, "It's hard to turn a man down on a night like this." Peter quickly wrote up the order and thanked God for the storm.

Peter still tries to give literature to many of the people he meets — once a literature evangelist, always a literature evangelist.

## FAMILY BIRTHS

**BLAKE** — Samuel Charles was born July 28, 2015, to Matthew and Ashlyn Blake, Dallas, Ore.

**WHITAKER** — Cameron John was born Jan. 5, 2016, to Jeremy and Mollie (Tachenko) Whitaker, Culver, Ore.

**WILSON** — Daniel Alexander was born Sept. 3, 2015, to Jared and Cara Wilson, Salem, Ore.

## FAMILY WEDDINGS

### CANNON-BRAHIN

Tammie Lynn Cannon and David Andrew Brahin were married Oct. 17, 2015, in Salem, Ore., where they are making their home. Tammie is the daughter of Eldon and Judith Cannon. David is the son of Robert and Karen (Hale) Brahin.

### GRADY-JIGAU

Gabrielle Dawn Marie Grady and Marius Emanuel Jigau were married Dec. 6, 2015, in Dallas, Ore. They are making their home in Melbourne, Australia. Gabrielle is the daughter of David and Karia Grady. Marius is the son of Constantin and Coralia Jigau.

### HUDSPETH-KINGRY

Jennifer Ann Hudspeth and Terry Lee Kingry were married Dec. 27, 2015, in Salem, Ore., where they are making their home. Jennifer is the daughter of Morris Hudspeth and Cynthia Stovall. Terry is the son of Terry and Vida (Allen) Kingry.

### MOSES-WALLACE

Marcia Pearl Moses Holub and Fred Elmer Wallace were married Dec. 5, 2015, in Stayton, Ore. They are making their home in Salem, Ore. Marcia is the daughter Robert and Pearl (Trugeon) Moses. Fred is the son of Charles and Effie (Reger) Wallace.

**BECK** — Clarence Francis, 90; born Jan. 25, 1925, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Oct. 29, 2015, Bellevue, Wash. Surviving: sons, Kenneth, Gig Harbor, Wash.; Gary, Wenatchee, Wash.; David, Bellevue; 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**BENNETT** — Frederick Roland, 85; born Feb. 11, 1930, Boston, Mass.; died Oct. 25, 2015, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Jane Ann (Schlader); sons, Fred, College Place; George, Walla Walla, Wash.; daughters, Janna Quaille, Guam; Carol Bovee, Shawnee, Kan.; 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**BOTTOMLEY** — Jean Ann (LaTourette), 80; born Feb. 15, 1935, Canby, Ore.; died Nov. 15, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, Ron, Lebanon, Ore.; Steven, College Place, Wash.; daughters, Kathy Woodward, Kennewick, Wash.; Connie Bottomley, Lebanon; 11 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**BRUNESE** — Georgia Diane (Lines), 74; born July 24, 1940, Superior, Neb.; died Oct. 15, 2014, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: former husband, Moe Brunese, Vancouver; son, Robert, Vancouver; and daughter, Erin Brunese, Vancouver.

**BUELL** — Kenneth V., 82; born May 31, 1933, Wilder, Idaho; died Oct. 17, 2015, Spangle, Wash. Surviving: wife, Margie (Cobb); son, Randy, Spangle; daughter, Lisa Buell, Spangle; brothers, Dexter, Quincy, Mich.; Bill, Anchorage, Alaska; Duane, Vancouver, Wash.; Kent, North Bend, Ore.; and sister, Demptha Bingman, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

**CAMPBELL** — William, 78; born May 9, 1937, Browns-

ville, Texas; died July 26, 2015, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Helen (Spraker); sons, Russell and Mark, both of Kuna, Idaho; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**CHADWICK** — Brenda Louise (White), 67; born Sept. 13, 1948, Decatur, Ill.; died Nov. 27, 2015, Salem, Ore. Surviving: stepson, Rick Chadwick, Albuquerque, N.M.; stepdaughter, Linda Probert, Silverton, Ore.; sisters, Kerry Trethewey, Chehalis, Wash.; Carla White and Amanda Mackey, both of Milwaukie, Ore.; a step-grandchild and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

**COX** — M. Verdell (Owens), 98, born Oct. 29, 1917, Ocean Falls, British Columbia, Canada; died Nov. 19, 2015, Battle Ground, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Gloria D. Oakes, Anchorage, Alaska; Judy L. Rogers, Battle Ground; sister, Virginia H. Wilson, Vancouver, Wash.; 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**CROZIER** — Marian Elizabeth (Pelmulder), 102; born July 10, 1913, College Place, Wash.; died Oct. 25, 2015, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Jane Nelson, Holland, Texas; Nancy Knowles, Woodland, Wash.; 8 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**DASSENKO** — Marilyn J. (Weis), 84; born Jan. 21, 1931, Taft, Calif.; died May 31, 2015, Salem, Ore. Surviving: husband, Ivan; son, Alan, Salem; daughter, Karen Miller, Salem; and brother, Rodney Weis, Nada, Calif.

**DERBY** — Donald Delevan, 82; born April 26, 1933, Ventura, Calif.; died Oct. 8, 2015, Central Point, Ore. Surviving: wife, Mary (Flaherty) Neves

Derby; son, Scott Derby, Stevenson Ranch, Calif.; stepson, Robert Neves, of China; daughter, Lori (Derby) Bash, Valley Glen, Calif.; and a grandchild.

**ERHART** — Milton Eugene, 75; born June 1, 1940, Kansas City, Kan.; died Oct. 24, 2015, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Mary Carolyn (Harlan); sons, Bruce, Shoreline, Wash.; Gene, Boise; daughter, Renee Karel, Eagle, Idaho; brothers, Wayne, Derwood, Md.; Lee, Kansas City, Mo.; Stan, San Francisco, Calif.; and 8 grandchildren.

**GEORGE** — Phyllis J. (Luttrell), 73; born May 8, 1942, North Bend, Ore.; died Nov. 21, 2015, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: son, Mike, Eugene, Ore.; daughter, Kristi Stone, Vancouver, Wash.; brothers, Leonard Luttrell, Redmond, Ore.; Kenneth Luttrell, Lincoln City, Ore.; Terry Luttrell, St. Helens, Ore.; sister, Janice Julum, Waldport, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**GIBBONS** — Elizabeth Redden (Barlow), 91; born Aug. 7, 1924, Lexington, Ky.; died Nov. 11, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: husband, C. Keith; son, Edwin K., Madras, Ore.; daughters, Yvonne E. Jackson, Prescott, Wash.; L. Kay Sanborn, Redmond, Ore.; foster-daughters, Sandi Masterjohn, Spring Creek, Nev.; Sally Alexander, Marysville, Wash.; 20 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

**GUTH** — Helen Inez (Stevens), 97; born Jan. 15, 1918, Entre Rios, Argentina; died Nov. 25, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, William, The Dalles, Ore.; Richard, Loma Linda, Calif.; Ronald, Ukiah, Calif.; Leonard, Coeur d'Alene,

## FAMILY AT REST

Idaho; 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**HALLESON** — Larry Samuel, 75; born April 16, 1940, Renton, Wash.; died June 11, 2015, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Pat (Reiswig), Gresham, Ore.; brother, Gary Halleison, of Hawaii; and sister, Bonnie Lewis, Kent, Wash.

**HERMO** — Ina Alona (Mattinen), 88; born Oct. 5, 1927, Rainier, Ore.; died Nov. 2, 2015, Tillamook, Ore. Surviving: husband, Alan; daughter, Brenda Trevino, Springfield, Ore.; brothers, Henry Mattinen, Lebanon, Ore.; Charles Mattinen, Rainier; sister, Ida Hurst, Salem, Ore.; and a grandchild.

**HOFFMAN** — Ilda Mae (Brown), 89; born Feb. 5, 1926, Edgely, N.D.; died Nov. 14, 2015, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Surviving: brothers, Darrell Hoffman, Coeur d'Alene; and Marlyn Hoffman, John Day, Ore.

**JOHNSON** — Paul Whitney Sr., 94; born Sept. 22, 1920, Buhl, Idaho; died Aug. 28, 2015, Santa Clarita, Calif. Surviving: son, Whitney Jr., Lindsay, Calif.; daughters, Camillia Johnson and Karen Pierce, both of Santa Clarita; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**KAPING** — Richard Loren, 74; born Aug. 18, 1941, Leavenworth, Wash.; died Oct. 24, 2015, College Place, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Stephanie Kaping, College Place; brothers, Randy, Walla Walla, Wash.; Tyler, Hermiston, Ore.; and sister, Pat Gossage, Anacortes, Wash.

**MARSHALL** — James Houston, 91; born June 10, 1924, Henryetta, Okla.; died June 11, 2015, Retsil, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Sue Schoengart,

Bremerton, Wash.; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**NEVES** — Helen J. (Soicklemier) King, 82; born Aug. 1, 1933, Cheyenne, Wyo.; died Nov. 29, 2015, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gordon King, Lodi, Calif.; Ed Neves, Eugene, Ore.; daughters, Susan (King) Tigue, Eugene; Debra (King) Alford, Pueblo West, Colo.; Rhonda (King) Garner, Caldwell, Idaho; 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

**PETERSEN** — LuVerne Rodney, 94; born Dec. 1, 1921, Audubon County, Iowa; died Dec. 1, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Alice (Nelsen); daughters, Jane Dodds, Walla Walla; Janet Brown, College Place, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**REDFORD** — John "Bill" William, 91; born Sept. 7, 1924, Tacoma, Wash.; died Nov. 20, 2015, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: wife, Angie (Mayo); son, Steven Redford, Sandy, Ore.; stepdaughters, Cindy (Laabs) Kromer, Bend, Ore.; Julianne Laabs, Hillsboro, Ore.; Shelley (Laabs) Sharer, Estacada, Ore.; sister, Ruth (Redford) Martin, Tacoma; 4 step-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

**ROSS** — Glen Dale, 94; born April 13, 1921, Leaburg, Ore.; died Sept. 4, 2015, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: wife, Rose (Bodrug); sons, Glen Jr., Springfield; Lester, Phoenix, Ariz.; Robert, Portland, Ore.; Kevin and Kent, both of Springfield; 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

**RUUD** — Lester O., 102; born July 17, 1913, Elgin, Ill.; died

Nov. 12, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Vera (Grove); sons, Philip, Pendleton, Ore.; Dennis, Chesapeake, Va.; brother, Nils, Oregon City, Ore.; sister, Shirley Hartnell, Desert Hot Springs, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**SHERMAN** — Franklin Stanley, 10; born Sept. 2, 2005, Nampa, Idaho; died Oct. 28, 2015, Wilder, Idaho. Surviving: parents, Robert and Melinda Sherman, Wilder; sisters, Crystalyn (Sherman) Sevy, Caldwell, Idaho; Jacquelyn Sherman and Angelyn Sherman, both of Wilder; grandparents, David and Virginia Sherman, Wilder; and Charles and Caroline Sharon, Centralia, Mo.

**SHIELDS** — Frank Henry Xavier, 70; born June 2, 1945, Berea, Ohio; died Sept. 24, 2015, Eagle, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Janis (Grabner) Shields; stepson, Rick Scherette, Boise, Idaho; daughters, Kimberley Shields and Tiffany Hendriksen, both of Portland, Ore.; stepdaughters, Kimberley (Scherette) Mitchell, Meridian, Idaho; Debra (Scherette) Peters, Baker City, Ore.; and 8 grandchildren.

**SHULTZ** — Carol Ann, 77; born Aug. 21, 1938, Caldwell, Idaho; died Nov. 12, 2015, Ola, Idaho. Surviving: sister, Myrna Long, Caldwell.

**STEWART** — Sydney Elwin, 88; born March 2, 1927, St. Helena, Calif.; died Nov. 12, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Florence (Olson); daughters, Cindy Stewart, Vancouver, Wash.; Debbie Stewart, Angwin, Calif.; daughter, Shari Thompson, Mt. Shasta, Calif.; and a grandchild.

**STORY** — Robert V., 95; born Jan. 27, 1920, Airlie, Ore.; died

Sept. 28, 2015, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: son, Steven E., Baker City, Ore.; daughters, Clara Jeannette Corser and Vallis Aldeen Frazier, both of Hermiston; Denise LaVern Jenkins, Battle Ground, Wash.; 9 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

**WALLACE** — Myrtle Lee (Gregory), 92; born Dec. 21, 1922, Pauls Valley, Okla.; died Aug. 4, 2015, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Yvonne Alen, Vancouver; brother, Roy Gregory, Roseburg, Ore.; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**WILLIAMS** — John Luther, 84; born July 5, 1931, Kingston, Jamaica; died Oct. 28, 2015, Corona, Calif. Surviving: wife, Marylyn Joan (Young); sons, Roger, Murrieta, Calif.; Jim, Riverside, Calif.; daughters, Joni Hollie, Lake Oswego, Ore.; Sandy Silvestri, Corona, Texas; 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

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

**Go to [GleanerNow.com/](http://GleanerNow.com/) contribute to submit family announcements.**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

### Offering

**March 5** — Local Church Budget;

**March 12** — Adventist World Radio;

**March 19** — Local Church Budget;

**March 26** — Local Conference Advance.

**More events listed at** [GleanerNow.com/events](http://GleanerNow.com/events).

## WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

### Membership Loss and Reclamation Seminar

**April 1–2** — David Trim and Galina Stele from the General Conference will host “Why Did They Leave? Why Might They Come Back? Prioritizing Discipleship, Retention and Reclamation.” Seminar begins Friday evening, April 1, and continues through Sabbath afternoon, April 2, at the Walla Walla University Church, College Place, Wash. Trim and Stele will share data from unprecedented research into why Adventist members stop attending church or leave altogether.

### 50-Year Choral Reunion

**April 21–24** — If you sang in a Walla Walla College/University select (touring) choir, you are warmly invited to attend the 50-Year Choral Reunion, featuring the Lickey years through the present, during WWC/WWU Homecoming. For more details and for registration, access [wallawalla.edu/touringchoir](http://wallawalla.edu/touringchoir), [Facebook.com/WallaWallaUniversityMusic](https://www.facebook.com/WallaWallaUniversityMusic), [music@wallawalla.edu](mailto:music@wallawalla.edu) or 509-527-2561.

## OREGON

### First Friday at Adventist Medical Center

**March 4** — Join Adventist Medical Center in Portland on the first Friday of each month for joyful praise and fellowship. Every first Friday from 7 to 8:15 p.m., at Adventist Medical Center Amphitheater C.

### Benefit Concert at Stone Tower

**March 12** — You are invited to attend a special concert, “An Ever-Present Savior,” featuring Shannon and Jeanine Goodwin with friends. Join the Goodwins as they share their love for the Word of God with beautiful sacred music and testimonies. This is a benefit concert to help hungry children through the Weekend Backpack Lunch Program sponsored by People to People Ministries. Stone Tower Church, 3010 NE Holladay St., Portland, Ore., at 5 p.m. For information, contact Carl Parker at 503-893-9022.

### Sunnyside’s Annual Musical Variety Program

**March 19** — Come enjoy Sunnyside’s Annual Musical Variety Program at 6 p.m. Bring your friends. Some of Portland’s finest musicians will be performing. There will be a short

vespers, and then refreshments will be served following the program. Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland, OR 97216.

### Michael Card Concert

**March 20** — Come and be part of an unforgettable Easter experience. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Gospel singer Michael Card performing at the Oregon State Fairgrounds Auditorium at 3:30 p.m. All-time favorites such as “El Shaddai,” “Joseph’s Song,” “The Gentle Healer” and many more. Come and be inspired. Tickets are on sale from [livingstoneevents.com](http://livingstoneevents.com).

### CAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend

**April 1–3** — This is an invitation for all alumni, friends, and former staff and students to be a part of the weekend. Come see your “old” friends and make some new ones! Honor classes are 2016, 2006, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1976, 1966 and all 1956 and prior. For more information, go to [caaschool.org/alumni/alumni-weekend](http://caaschool.org/alumni/alumni-weekend) or call Larry Hiday at 360-687-3161.

### Sunnyside Symphony Orchestra Concert

**May 1** — The Sunnyside Symphony Orchestra will perform works by Holst and Strauss plus Beethoven’s *Violin Concerto*, featuring renowned soloist Adam Lamotte. Concert will be Sunday at 4 p.m. Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland, OR 97216. For more information, visit [sunnysidesymphony.org](http://sunnysidesymphony.org).

## UPPER COLUMBIA

### Women’s One-Day Retreat

**May 7** — Don’t miss UCC Women’s One-Day Retreat at the Upper Columbia Conference office. Mark your calendar for the UCC Women’s Retreat at Camp MiVoden, Oct. 21–23. Registration will start in January. Also, if you missed this past October’s Women’s Retreat, the presentations by Jo Ann Davidson are available on CDs. Email [tamarat@uccsda.org](mailto:tamarat@uccsda.org) or call 509-242-0478. Online versions are available at [uccsda.org/women](http://uccsda.org/women). Simply click Audio Archives on the bottom right side of the page.

### UCC Camp Meeting

**June 22–25** — We hope you are planning to attend the 2016 Camp Meeting: Growing Disciples. Our main speaker will be John Bradshaw, director and speaker for It is Written. Our devotional speaker will be Carl Cosaert, of the Walla Walla University theology department. Don’t delay, reserve your site today at the UCC Camp Meeting website, [uccsda.org/campmeeting](http://uccsda.org/campmeeting).

**Adult Care**

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**UNION COLLEGE** seeks vice president for student services beginning in July 2016. The VPSS leads out in the vision, strategy and execution of the college's student services goals. Qualified Adventist candidate will be student-centered and an experienced leader in higher education. See [ucollege.edu/staff-openings](http://ucollege.edu/staff-openings). Send resume to Dr. Vinita Sauder, [visauder@ucollege.edu](mailto:visauder@ucollege.edu).

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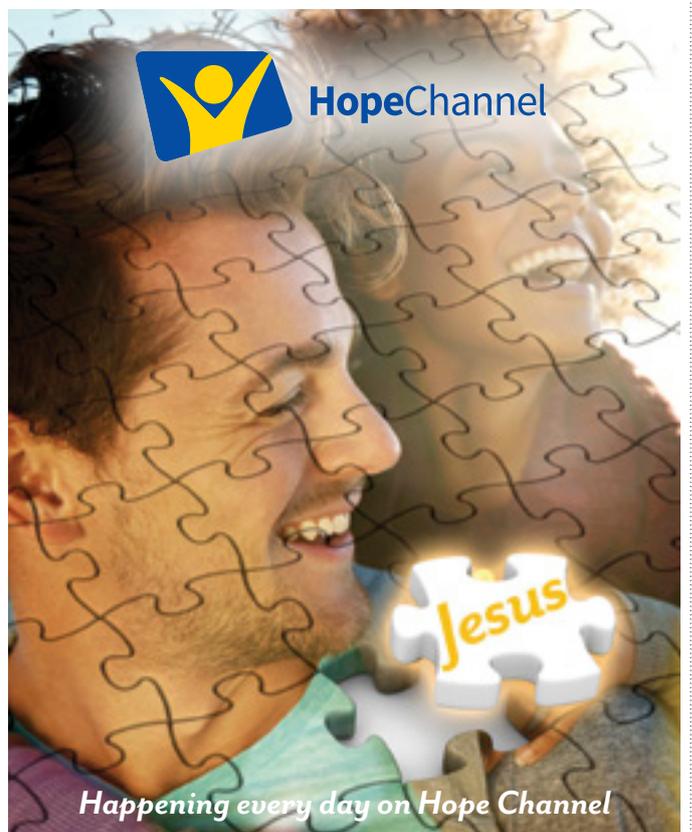
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**GRIGGS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY** seeks director of K-8 program. This position serves as the director for the Griggs International Academy (GIA) K-8 program. The person in this position will supervise teachers, coach parents, support NAD elementary schools. Addressing K-8 curriculum will be a key element in this position. The qualifications needed for this position include elementary teacher certification (denominational certification required/state certification

preferred). The candidate should have a master's degree related to education. For more information and to apply, visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/948](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/948).

**GRIGGS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY** seeks director of student services. This position provides a variety of student services that will include supporting students' needs, communications, academic support and student retention. The candidate should have a related degree and experience in an educational environment. Education: Master's degree is preferred. [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/949](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/949).

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**WORK WITH TEENS AND MAKE DIFFERENCE:** Christian residential facility in Garden Valley, Idaho, is looking for full-time persons to work with troubled teenagers. Positions include supervision of teenagers, planning, paperwork, working as a team to meet the goals of helping at-risk youth. Requirements: HS diploma, 21 years of age for night, 23 for day positions. Compensation depends on education/experience. Project Patch Youth Ranch, 208-462-3074.

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**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks development officer/grant writer. Responsibilities include grant writing, donor relations, event coordination and data entry. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree with strong consideration given to those with experiences in grant writing and donor relations. Submit cover letter and CV/resume to [sgrady@swau.edu](mailto:sgrady@swau.edu).

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks qualified and visionary professional to serve the department of music as director of keyboard and theory studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard, theory and church music classes. Ideal candidate will possess a doctoral degree, be an accomplished performer and

have professional experience as a church musician. Send CV and cover letter to Mr. Jonathan Wall at [jwall@swau.edu](mailto:jwall@swau.edu).

### Events

**NATIONAL FAMILY RETREAT**, March 30–April 3, 2016. Practical messages – breakouts – family recreation – exhibits. Topics: Parenting, family, marriage, youth, young adult and media. Speakers: Waters, Rayne and Nebblett families with Scott Ritsema. Wewoka Adventist Center, near Oklahoma City. For more information, [restoration-international.org/nfr](http://restoration-international.org/nfr), 918-827-7012.

**JOIN US FOR RESTORATION INTERNATIONAL'S NW FAMILY RETREAT** held this year on July 13–17, at Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Wash. Visit [restoration-international.org](http://restoration-international.org) or call Vernon and Karina Pettey at 406-890-1195.

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### Miscellaneous

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**Sunset Schedule**

DST				
March	4	11	18	25

**ALASKA CONFERENCE**

Anchorage	6:32	6:50	8:08	8:26
Fairbanks	6:16	6:38	7:59	8:21
Juneau	5:33	5:49	7:05	7:21
Ketchikan	5:27	5:41	6:56	7:09

**IDAHO CONFERENCE**

Boise	6:37	6:46	7:54	8:03
La Grande	5:43	5:52	7:02	7:11
Pocatello	6:22	6:31	7:39	7:47

**MONTANA CONFERENCE**

Billings	6:04	6:14	7:23	7:33
Havre	6:07	6:17	7:28	7:38
Helena	6:18	6:28	7:37	7:47
Miles City	5:53	6:03	7:13	7:22
Missoula	6:25	6:35	7:45	7:55

**OREGON CONFERENCE**

Coos Bay	6:09	6:18	7:26	7:35
Medford	6:04	6:13	7:21	7:29
Portland	6:01	6:11	7:20	7:29

**UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE**

Pendleton	5:46	5:55	7:05	7:14
Spokane	5:38	5:49	6:59	7:09
Walla Walla	5:43	5:53	7:03	7:12
Wenatchee	5:50	6:00	7:11	7:20
Yakima	5:52	6:02	7:11	7:21

**WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

Bellingham	5:58	6:08	7:19	7:30
Seattle	5:58	6:08	7:19	7:29

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# Dr. Timothy Jennings

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March 11, 7:00 PM

*The Mind - God's Design & What Went Wrong*

March 12, 9:45 AM

March 12, 8:15 & 10:45 AM

*The God-Shaped Brain* and *Designer or Dictator*

March 12, 3:30-5:30 PM

*Growing Up in Christ* and *Answering Difficult Bible Questions*

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# BORROWING TROUBLE

O

ne of the most important roles in any group project, whether it be for work, school, church or even family, is electing someone to worry. While people inevitably volunteer to make phone calls, write up data, edit data or order lunch (usually my job), hiring someone to freak out really pulls everything together.

Depending on the magnitude and intensity of the assignment, I let the worrier know that the best way to help everyone out is to stand in a corner and imagine all the horrible things that can go wrong. If this person can wring his or her hands, cry or pull out his or her own hair, I consider that a bonus. Yes, when engaging in important decisions, one really can't place enough emphasis on those who promise to use all their energy to imagine heretofore-nameless horrors into existence — and share them with everyone.

Worrying feels helpful, even like working, because it requires substantial creative and emotional energy. Intense anxiety and worry can cause faster heart rates, muscle tension, shortness of breath and sweating — just like a good workout. Of course, unlike a good<sup>1</sup> workout, it will kill you. So ... yeah, maybe I should stop asking people to freak out; but that's unlikely to make them stop.

When we speak of stewardship it usually refers to finances, and one of the statistics we like to point out for people in the global



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce

West is our tendency to borrow more money than we are able to pay back. However, we are not only in financial debt, we are in emotional debt.

In the gospels, Jesus tells His followers, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble” (Matt. 6:32–34). According to Christ, our day's trouble budget is full — but according to various studies we feel like we need more. While American stress



# PERSPECTIVE



## Our American way of life praises hard work and personal achievement but still wrestles with rest and simplicity.

levels, overall, are down, they are still much higher than is deemed healthy (*US News*, 2015). While a number of concerns (including financial) contribute to worrying and anxiety, I believe faith communities seldom broach the subject of emotional stewardship. Our American way of life praises hard work and personal achievement but still wrestles with rest and simplicity.

From conversations I have as a pastor, people feel guilty if they don't have an incessant amount of things to do, or they place so many heavy expecta-

tions on themselves that their minds drift from the present into a dark future where they inevitably let themselves, maybe even God, down. Thursday might be going well, but, instead of appreciating a good day, people's minds wander to Monday when various assignments, meetings or responsibilities are due. Their stress account may have been low but now it fills up with borrowed anger and angst rendering them joyless in the present. Sometimes it even paralyzes them in the present so they can't perform the simple

tasks today that would make their tomorrows a success.

Adventists, with their unique view on future events outlined in prophecy, are susceptible to this. We conjure up times of trouble before they happen — and usually create present trouble in the process. We speculate on presidential policies, keep an eye on Islam and enjoy pope-watching — waiting for an enforced day of worship or persecution.

The result is overdrawn emotional accounts that leave us emotionally bankrupt. We aren't able to "love one another" (John 13:34) because we are too full of fear of the future.

One of my favorite authors, Mark Twain, wrote, "I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened." I am not an old man, but I know what he means, and I am sure you do too. So often my worst-case scenarios become least-likely scenarios.

Now don't misunderstand me; there is nothing wrong with thinking ahead. Matter of

fact, Jesus tells us, "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?" (Luke 14:28); but there is a difference between thinking ahead and worrying ahead. Thinking ahead brings life, but worry adds nothing (Luke 12:25).

So what do your emotional accounts look like? Have you been borrowing trouble or only spending the emotional energy you have for today? Just as managing a financial budget takes discipline, tools and counsel, so does emotional budgeting. This month, take time to reflect on Jesus' counsel on worry, share your struggle with a trusted friend and develop an awareness of your emotional spending habits so you can experience a greater sense of peace.

1. "Good" as in appropriate for your level of health, not amount of intensity.

*Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor*

# A SWOT ANALYSIS FROM JESUS



**STRENGTHS**

**A**

time-tested evaluation tool for corporations and other secular institutions is the SWOT analysis. It summarizes significant strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to that organization.

Corporations hire consultants to conduct a SWOT analysis of their operation. But some organizations have no interest in a searching and fearless inventory. Perhaps their leaders are too careless, ignorant, insecure or arrogant to care about the corporate good.

During my lifetime of church service at every governance level of Seventh-day Adventism, I've noticed that some churches and

administrative organizations welcome evaluative tools while others seem averse to scrutiny. Certain pastors and administrators who sermonize about personal accountability for lay members shy away from institutional evaluation.

Jesus operates otherwise. He actually did a SWOT analysis for seven congregations in the book of Revelation. Are you curious about His assessments? I've color-coded the strengths He identifies in

green, weaknesses in pink, opportunities in orange, and His threats are in blue.

We only have room here to chart three of the churches. The first one, Ephesus, is included so you can see all four SWOT elements at work. Of the other six churches, Smyrna has been purified by persecution and thus has no weaknesses worth mentioning. You might guess which one of the seven has no strengths.

## **TO THE CHURCH IN EPHEBUS (REV. 2:2-7)**

**S** “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

“I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

**W** “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

**T** “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did



**AUTHOR**

**Martin Weber**



## WEAKNESSES



at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

§ “Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. ☉ To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

### TO THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA (REV. 2:9–11)

§ “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

☉ “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. ☉ The one

who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.”

### TO THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA (REV. 3:15–21)

☉ “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ☿ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

☉ “For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

☉ “I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

☿ “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

☉ “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with

## OPPORTUNITIES



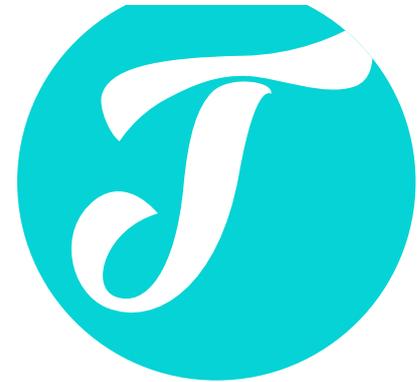
me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Sadly, Laodicea can receive no affirmation of any kind from Jesus. Our faithful and true Lord tells the truth about its weaknesses and cannot deny threats to its existence.

Seventh-day Adventists candidly identify with Laodicea as the church of the final generation. Sadly, we typically limit its warnings to individuals rather than the church’s administrative structure — as if individual Adventists can be lukewarm narcissists that had better shape up or be shipped out of the kingdom when Jesus comes ... but corporately, we supposedly enjoy once-saved, always-saved status.

Yet mercy lingers. Christ offers a pointed yet poignant plea for repentance. Do we have ears to hear Him?

## THREATS



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

## GRACE

*“God spreads grace like a 4-year-old spreads peanut butter — He gets it all over everything.” Mark Lowry*

The proverbial bull in a china shop, Peter had a questionable resume for a church leader.

**I**

t didn't come naturally to him. It never had. The gray matter of teamwork was too sluggish for his black-and-white world.

The proverbial bull in a china shop, Peter had a questionable resume for a church leader. Inappropriate interference with supernatural events — check. Getting an earful because of wild sword play — check. Sleeping during prayer — check. And those weren't the worst things on the list. How about betrayal?

I wonder how often Peter reflected upon his past indiscretions? Did every cock-a-doodle-doo recall the agonizing guilt of a nighttime courtyard? When did he learn that his first impulses, so quick to action or judgment, were often counter-intuitive to the kingdom?

But the King of hearts looked at Peter with a different measuring stick. He determined to build His church through the imperfect efforts of imperfect souls, people like Peter who knew firsthand the winsome tendrils of grace.

On a rooftop in Joppa, God added another chapter to Peter's continuing education: a sheet out of the blue and a voice from heaven. In that sheet were items never found on Peter's

table. In that voice, a command that Peter had never considered. In that lesson, a gift of grace that would color the Gospel Commission in ways he'd never imagined.

Consider the conflict in Peter's dogmatic mind with the inertia of countless generations of exclusive tradition and practice. Did he recall the recent conversation: “Do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord, you know I do.”

“Then feed my sheep.”

Did he remember the Master's declaration that some of those sheep were “not of this fold”?

Clarity came with a knock downstairs and a Gentile entreaty for the gospel. The message in the sheet was not an accident. It wasn't about food. It was about people. It was about the kingdom. God's grace was a gift meant for all.

Joppa was a fortuitous place to teach the lesson, where centuries before Jonah had embarked in an effort to escape heaven's call. God intervened then with a “whale” of a rescue. Peter was familiar with divine intervention. But the betrayer-turned-apostle was now learning how far that intervention, God's grace, would reach.

If a sheet from heaven

dropped today, what lesson would it contain for you or me? What misconceptions about life, ministry and the kingdom would we need to forego in order to fulfill the mission of our Master?

A gift greater than we deserve is why grace is so special. “Grace, like water,” observes Philip Yancey, “always flows to the lowest part.” Spiritually self-sufficient souls place themselves beyond the touch of grace. But those who realize how low they are without heaven's mercy are at the place where grace flows full and free.

The words to Julia H. Johnston's old and wonderful hymn are still true:

*Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and  
cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all  
our sin!*

*Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor*

AUTHOR

Steve Vistaunet

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