

EDITORIAL
TRAFFIC

PERSPECTIVE
LIFE MARKERS

JUST LIKE JESUS
DEAD?

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

Relationships

HELP OR HINDRANCE TO MISSION?

JUN
2017
VOL. 12, NO. 6



Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.
Psalms 139:23–24

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“Tumble Weed River”
in the Palouse area, Wash.,
by Abel J. Rojas,
of Walla Walla, Wash.

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Gleaner STAFF

Editor: Steve Vistaunet
Copy Editor: Laurel Rogers
Advertising and Production Coordinator: Desiree Lockwood
Digital Media Coordinator: Anthony White
Design: GUILDHOUSE Group



EDITORIAL

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TRAFFIC



will drive miles out of my way to avoid stop-and-go traffic. Life is too short, I reason, to spend valuable moments gazing up someone's tailpipe. It's exhausting.

But sometimes this blessed journey we call church can feel like bumper-to-bumper traffic. This is how the wheels turn in our representative process. Papers are written, committees are formed, motions are made, programs are launched. We lay claim to new horizons an inch at a time.

Like Israel of old, some might wish for a king to autocratically determine for us how to think and believe. But that was not God's ideal intent for Israel — or for us. He has imbued each of His children with a calling to speak on His behalf. He has granted every believer the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide and empower. The apostle Peter describes a fellowship and gospel ministry for all believers. That sounds wonderfully inclusive.

But inclusiveness is sometimes messy and slow, with all the joy of a rush-hour traffic jam. Dictatorships are tempting at times, simple and clear, one person to decide for the many. But our Adventist pioneers loathed the implications of a kingly power. Thus today, folks from all corners of this movement are eager participants in its decisions and directions.

AUTHOR

Steve Vistaunet

We reported last year that Northwest membership had finally topped 100,000. Imagine writing a letter to your beloved, guided by the vocal assistance of 100,000 eager editors, each with their own word preferences and turns of phrase. Would your epistle ever reach its destination? Would its words convey your heart?

Yet this is the process we have chosen. The traffic slows to a crawl sometimes. Committee meetings and constituency agendas are filled with speeches, queries, motions, amendments and the decidedly noncharismatic raising of hands. Our well-meaning efforts to include everyone's opinion sometimes gum up the very progress we seek. I sense the exasperation of church leaders and chairpersons when the words of a stellar proposal are parsed into oblivion. And, I understand why some members become frustrated and cynical. We are all people, and we all imperfectly mirror His plan.

And, because of that, the way forward may be counterintuitive. Humility must supplant pride. Deference must displace defiance. Reconnection must replace rebellion. These atmospheric changes are only possible when we have been driven to our knees — not simply to speak of our needs, but to listen to God's heart. And there, right there, is where divine progress in this gospel commission happens. When we recognize our human insuffi-

ciency, when we remember Sister Ellen's conviction that "man's extremity is God's opportunity."

In that crucible of faith is forged the essence of every true church. It is discovered in the stop and go of the journey itself. But no matter where you find yourself today, there is always something you can do along the lines of these few words from C.S. Lewis in the preface to *Mere Christianity*: "When you have reached your own room, be kind to those who have chosen different doors and to those who are still in the hall. If they are wrong they need your prayers all the more; and if they are your enemies, then you are under orders to pray for them. This is one of the rules common to the whole house."

Do we not have a similar need with our "house" too? Instead of getting uptight when traffic slows us down, we can use that opportunity to pray, to rethink our own directions. When differences become overwhelmingly intense, when they seem to bar the way, there's never a better time to heed the scriptural exhortation to stop and listen ... for Him. The unity of our movement depends on this. Pray without ceasing, engage God in a running conversation, the Good Book says. That counsel couldn't be more appropriate, more timely, than it is for each of us today.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor





FRESH DIRECTION FOR ASI NORTHWEST

- A** The technology and media panel (from left): Fred Cornforth, Anthony Thomsen, Randy Jamison, Martin Casper, Brian Yeager, Cheri Peters and Steve Creitz.
- B** The Ken Bevins praise team from the Cloverdale Church in Boise, engages the audience with musical inspiration.



THE MELTING POT OF ADVENTIST MEMBERS AND MISSION IS NOWHERE MORE EVIDENT THAN AT AN ADVENTIST-LAYMEN'S SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES (ASI) CONVENTION. THAT DIVERSITY, COUPLED WITH A COMMON PASSION FOR SHARING CHRIST IN THE MARKETPLACE, WAS A CENTERPIECE OF THE RECENT ASI NORTHWEST (ASI NW) CONVENTION HELD APRIL 21–23 IN BOISE, IDAHO. CHAPTER LEADERS JAMES RAFFERTY, RICK WESTERMEYER AND FRED CORNFORTH PUT TOGETHER A RICH MENU OF SPEAKERS AND TOPICS GERMANE TO THE ASI MISSION.

More than 100 business and ministry leaders, along with interested lay members, families and children, gathered to share inspiration and ideas, and choose chapter leaders for the year ahead. ASI NW chapter constituents elected Fred Cornforth as president, Rick Westermeyer vice president, Terry Mace vice president for finance, Martin Casper vice president for communication, Randy Meyer vice president of evangelism, Gary Morgan vice president for membership and Ted Evert vice president secretariat to lead the chapter for 2017–18.

Evening keynote speaker Ty Gibson jogged attendees from any tendency toward compla-

city. "Religion," he said, "is the best place in the world to hide from God." Furthermore, he observed, a religiously inclined person can be "outwardly and intellectually compliant, but with a heart that is totally corrupt." The message was clear: Don't even talk about sharing Christ in the marketplace unless you are giving Him first place in your heart.

Sabbath day meetings included a plethora of inspiration from John McVay, Walla Walla University president, who led a vigorous lesson study; David Prest, Idaho Conference president, with the morning sermon; and music from the Ken Bevins praise team and the

Sound Wave Bell Choir from Gem State Academy.

The highlight for many featured an AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) Impact Your Health Clinic report and video summary from the Boise clinic held April 19–21 just prior to the ASI NW weekend. The clinic brought more than 750 volunteers together to bring free medical, dental and other essential services to more than 1,300 individuals from the community.

Along with the usual reports and projects highlighted from various ministries throughout the weekend, event organizers stressed strategic visioning for connecting with the larger community. Gasper and May-Ellen Colon, world church community service leaders, challenged those who attended with creating urban ministries and centers of influence in the public sphere. Local businessmen Fred Cornforth, Martin Casper and Jere Webb described proactive efforts of the Cloverdale Church in the Boise area to reconnect with

former members. Cornforth also led a panel discussion of communication and media professionals — including Randy Jamison of Curious Media, Steve Creitz with Good Salt and Brian Yeager of Barefoot Media Ministries — on how to positively use technology in gospel mission.

Young and old, familiar stories and fresh faces, joined this melting pot of Adventist mission. Local members Steve and Kimberly Miljatovic attended with their four young children, and Irwin Rogers, semiretired businessman, was in his seat as he has been since his first ASI meeting in 1984. There were differing perspectives and backgrounds represented in those seats, but unity on mission to the community and the world. And that, in a nutshell, is what ASI here in the Northwest and beyond is all about.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

More photos online at glnr.in/112-06_asinw

+ PICTURE THIS



CDA Church heads to Cuba.

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CCA on a mission to Camp Tuk.

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ASI NW scholarships to WWU.

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GSAA students say AMEN!

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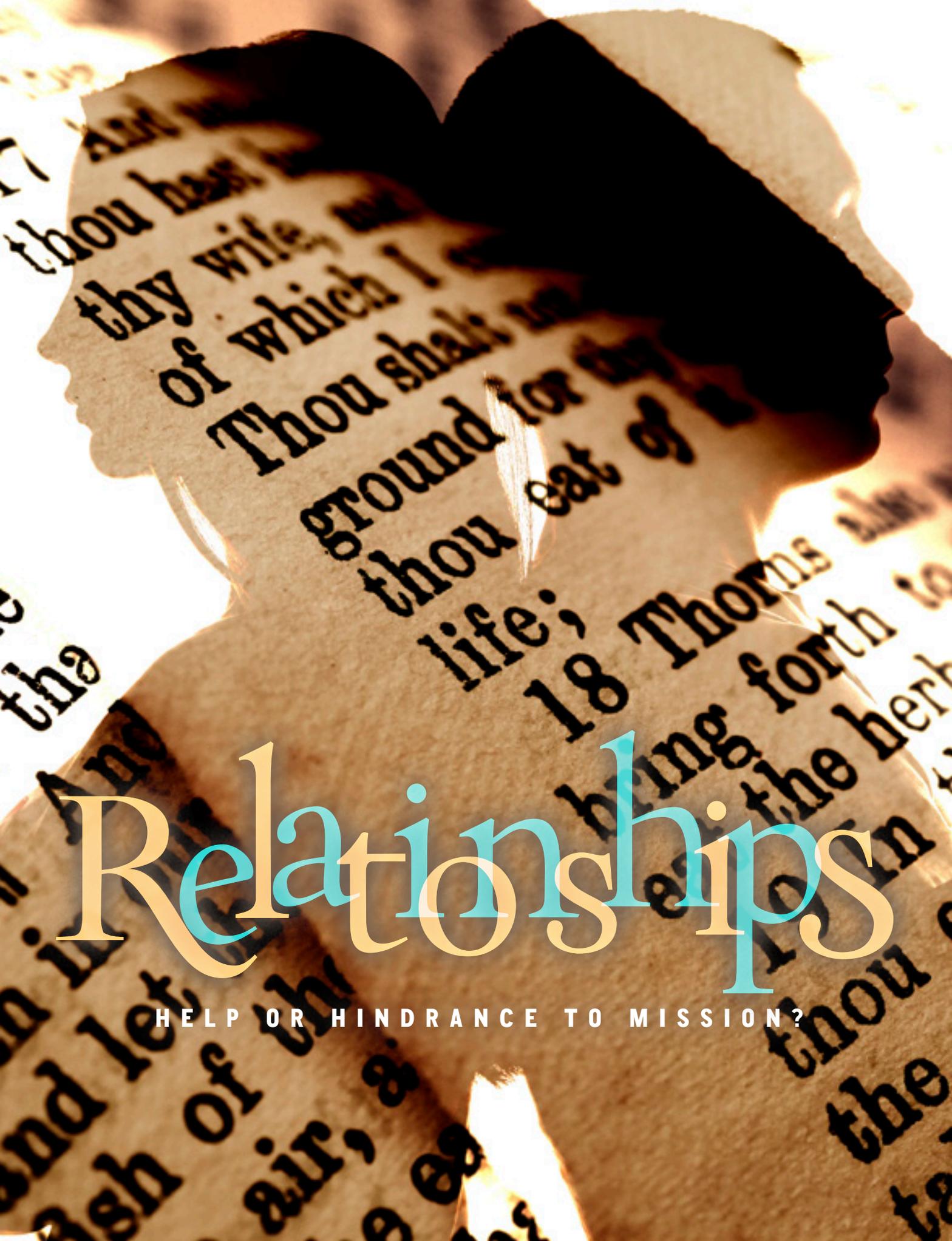


A Teen Mission Adventure.

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Relationships

HELP OR HINDRANCE TO MISSION?

God created us in His image to crave positive relationships. When we build on those relationships to lead others to Jesus, we find that truth often flourishes best when placed in the context of human connections. But making friends for Christ is no guarantee all will go well.

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM GONE BAD

We had just undergone a major family transition and had moved into a neighborhood with young families where we met Bob and Lucy. One day God opened an opportunity for us to assist them with some marital challenges, and our friendship naturally deepened.

Several months later, Bob, Lucy and their children accepted Jesus as their personal Savior and were baptized into our church. We can still remember that glorious Sabbath morning. The whole family exuberantly entered the baptismal waters and exited with uncontrollable, tear-stained joy. Lucy shared she had found everything she didn't even know she was looking for.

Another positive friendship-evangelism story? It was for a while, until unfortunate events and attitudes put on the brakes.

LUCY'S STORY

You see, Lucy was battle-scarred. As a young girl, she had developed an inescapable familiarity with rejection, neglect, abuse and heartache. Lucy and her family, like the grand majority of us post-fall humans, were wounded by generations of unhealthy family systems that failed to provide consistent unconditional love, a sense of belonging, attention and affection. When they were exposed to the good news of the gospel, when they experienced unconditional love and acceptance in our friendship, they assumed that the church community that followed Jesus would reflect Him and His character.

And all seemed to be going well, until an ill-fated Sabbath morning. At the potluck following church, our "holier-than-thou" sister Sarah approached Lucy and began to harshly criticize the "inappropriate" dish Lucy had brought. It wasn't just that Sarah had assigned herself as the sergeant of the "potluck police force," but it was the calloused, ruthless way she discharged her scathing public rebuke that seemed to annul everything we had taught Lucy about Jesus' compassionate response toward sinners.

So Lucy turned and left that day, stunned by the penetrating sting of shame with which she was all too familiar. Our church was the one place she had hoped things would be different. Despite our deepest apologies and best efforts to re-explain that not all church attending members are mature Christians, Lucy never returned to church.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Family scientists have suggested it takes several generations to produce a schizophrenic. Unhealthy relationships in one generation often worsen in the next. Scripture explains the sins of the fathers will reach their children until the fourth generation. We are all products of our inherited family system patterns that have played out after the fall.

Our sinful nature is dangerous because sin, which is self-focused, is all about hurting, resenting, hating, destroying and deforming. Sin follows the pattern of its designer. "The thief," Jesus said, "comes to steal, kill and destroy" (John 10:10).

Sandra Wilson, in her book *Hurt People Hurt People*, reminds us that the family system patterns we carry within ourselves accompany us to church (and everywhere we go). We end up hurting each other due to the often unidentified and inescapable pain in our own lives.

Individuals who have grown up in homes lacking unconditional love, attention and affection sometimes have difficulties loving others unconditionally and giving attention to their own spouses or children. They can struggle to give or receive affection.

When a person has grown up in a home filled with constant put downs, criticism and other forms of emotional abuse, we can predict they will have a very difficult time creating emotional intimacy in a romantic relationship. How can a person who has experienced such a toxic environment be expected to automatically trust another enough to be vulnerable, transparent and

love. Adam was created in the image of God. God the Father lives in connection with the Son, who lives in connection with the Spirit. Relational connection is not merely a theoretical concept. It is a way of life for the Trinity. Eve was later formed from Adam's rib, and the couple was commanded to become one flesh. Oneness connection was to be a way of life for all married couples.

Sin, however, changed the heart condition from an "other-focus" to a "self-focus." Our capacity to love and receive love from another became challenging.

When Jesus was deployed to Earth, His assigned name proclaimed His relationship intentions: Immanuel, "God with us." Jesus came to personally model for all of humanity, how living in unbroken connection with His Father was the secret to living above the emotional smog of distress, disillusionment and destruction that living

The Word then tells us that the two disciples stayed with Him the rest of the day. Relational connections make us feel included. Inclusion builds relationships; exclusion destroys them. Exclusion hurts; inclusion enhances. Exclusion devalues; inclusion esteems. Exclusion is punitive; inclusion is redemptive.

SO HOW DO WE MAKE A NEW START?

First, let's accept that there are no perfect family relationships after the fall in Eden. A more realistic ambition is to strive for healthy (enriching and connecting) versus unhealthy (destructive and disconnecting) family relationship patterns. Our delusions of perfection can only serve to fuel the self-righteous degradation (private or public backbiting gossip) of all others who fail to measure up to our self-imposed standards.

In our opening story, we saw how Sarah's relentless perfectionism fueled her heartless rebuke towards Lucy. You might have guessed by now that Sarah, much like Lucy, also came from an unhealthy family system. The one primary difference between Sarah and Lucy was Lucy was

very aware of her unhealthy upbringing while Sarah hid the truth from herself and others by covering up her "true self" with her self-righteous "false self." Though hidden, Sarah's inner shame and pain fueled her to speak and behave in a cruel manner toward anyone she felt deserved to be put in their place.

Second, our family relationship patterns are embedded into who we are, how we view others, how we listen and how we respond in

any given situation. It's why Jesus, during His nighttime encounter with Nicodemus, emphasized the need that all humans must start all over again. Jesus directed Nicodemus to understand that a child of God needs to begin with an infusion of the Holy Spirit. In the new birth experience, the Spirit literally recreates the person in a complete overhaul so that what *was*, no longer *is*. "Behold," explains Paul, "everything is made new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Ellen White explains, "The religion of Christ transforms the heart. It makes the worldly-minded man heavenly-minded. Under its influence the selfish person becomes unselfish because this is the character of Christ. Dishonest, scheming persons become upright so it is second nature to them to do unto others as they would have others do unto them. The immoral man or woman is changed from impurity to purity. They form correct habits, for the gospel of Christ has become to them a savor of life unto life" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, page 345, emphasis added).

If we have perceived God's invitation to grow and mature emotionally and spiritually into mission-focused individuals, families and spiritual communities, we can begin by humbling ourselves. We can prayerfully ask God to aid us in identifying and categorizing our core family relationship patterns as either *healthy* or *unhealthy*. Next, we must hold these up to the relational standards Christ exemplified during His time on Earth.

As maturing adults, we can then determine which family relationship patterns are *constructive* and which are *destructive*. We must choose those worthy of retaining and passing forward to our

We end up hurting each other due to the often unidentified and inescapable pain in our own lives.

authentic? The unhealthy family system patterns have created a person who instinctively distrusts, creates protective barriers to protect against intimacy, and harbors pain and resentment that can inadvertently be transmitted to their relationships.

GENETICALLY WIRED FOR RELATIONSHIP

Positive relationships are critical to learn because they are part of God's character of

disconnected lives engenders.

When two of John the Baptist's disciples followed Jesus one day, He suddenly turned around and asked them, "What are you looking for?"

They responded, "Where are you staying?" (John 1:37, 38). Jesus could have said, "I live in a house on Main and Broadway or next to the market." Instead, He seized the opportunity to connect with these two men and invited them: "Come and see."

children. We must discard anything counterproductive to our collective goal of creating the emotional connections necessary for building thriving relationships with God, our spouses, children, church family and anyone in our circle of influence.

UPLIFTING RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT OPTIONAL

As members of the body of Christ, relating to one another in uplifting ways is not optional. We are encouraged by Paul's words: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:9, 10, NKJV).

White echoes this: "We sustain a most solemn relation one to another. Our influence is always either for or against the salvation of souls. We are either gathering with Christ or scattering abroad. We should walk humbly and make straight paths, lest we turn others out of the right way" (*Review and Herald*, March 27, 1888).

Here are several things to remember as we seek to build positive relationships within our homes, churches and communities:

- » We need to accept the reality that we need healing for our broken and distorted spiritual and emotional condition. Self-deception runs deep and wide in our society.
- » It is not theoretical knowledge we need so much as spiritual regeneration.
- » Healthy relationships are based on the participation of open, transparent, authentic individuals who are vulnerable and sensitive

Inclusion builds relationships; exclusion destroys them.

Exclusion devalues; inclusion esteems.
Exclusion is punitive; inclusion is redemptive. ■

to Jesus love and therefore willing to share that love.

- » Every day we are presented with opportunities to help somebody feel included, valued, appreciated. This might be a simple nonverbal acknowledgment of somebody's presence, a smile, a warm look, an encouraging word, and invitation to "come and see" by opening the doors of our homes, our hearts or anything that communicates care and sympathy for others.
- » Relationships, especially marriage and family relationships, are God's laboratory for character growth. This family laboratory includes the relationships we are called to develop and sustain with our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. In fact, it is God's intentional plan to allow us to relate to people who are very different than us in temperament, background and personality. This is one of the most effective methods God uses to grow and mature His children into His likeness. God has gifted us with marriage partners, children, and/or spiritual brothers and sisters whom He is using as His "assistants" in the growth and development of our characters. It is God's agenda that we grow

and mature into His image as we relate to one another in home, church and community in ways that reflect His work in our lives.

César and Carolann De León are licensed marriage and family therapists who give seminars around the world. César serves as the North Pacific Union Conference vice president of Hispanic ministries.

+ ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AT glnr.in/112-06_resources



INAUGURACIÓN DE LA IGLESIA HISPANA MADRE DE LA UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE: GRANGER, WASH.

En la década de los 80, Dios decidió que era necesario establecer una iglesia adventista del séptimo día en la ciudad de Granger, Wash. El Pastor José Arias fue elegido para dirigir esta linda obra junto a pocas familias que habían aceptado el llamado de Dios para proclamar su mensaje y amor eterno. El grupo recién formado de Granger comenzó rentando

de Yakima, Toppenish y Wapato, Wash., entre otras congregaciones, y así fue surgiendo varias iglesias plantadas. Por tal motivo, a la iglesia de Granger se la considera la madre de todas las iglesias plantadas de la obra hispana de la Upper Columbia Conference.

En el año 1997 el Pastor Pedro Rascón volvió a reunir a hermanos para capacitarlos en la ciudad de Granger a través de grupos pequeños con la finalidad de plantar una iglesia. En el mes de octubre del mismo año el Pastor Eddie Allen realizó varias series de evangelismo con el objetivo de alcanzar a la comunidad hispana en dicha ciudad. Por cuatro meses cada jueves y martes varios líderes se comprometieron a visitar casa por casa en toda la

ciudad llevando el mensaje de salvación a las familias.

En febrero de 1998 se estableció nuevamente un grupo en la ciudad dirigido por el Pastor Juan Merino. Más adelante con la llegada del Pastor Jeremías Miguel, se continuó la obra en conjunto con todas las familias involucradas con el lema “Salvemos el Hogar.” La iglesia de habla inglesa de Granger le ofreció al grupo en crecimiento el uso de su edificio, y comenzaron a reunirse allí en forma permanente.

Actualmente, el pastor Marco Larumbe asumió el desafío de seguir haciendo crecer la obra hispana en Granger. Desde su llegada en diciembre del 2013 se propuso a orar y ayunar junto con la iglesia para que la iglesia



Pastor José Arias bautizando a algunos de los primeros miembros en Granger, Wash., en 1984.

hispana de Granger pueda tener su propio edificio y hoy, 15 de abril del 2017, Dios ha contestado esta oración y nos está dando una nueva iglesia para seguir creciendo como obra hispana.

“... Al repasar la historia pasada puedo decir: Alabado sea Dios! Al ver lo que el Señor ha hecho, me lleno de admiración y de confianza en el liderazgo de Cristo. No tenemos nada que temer del futuro, a menos que nos olvidemos de la manera que el Señor nos ha conducido, y lo que nos ha enseñado en nuestra historia pasada” (Elena White, *Notas Biográficas de Ellen G. White*, pág. 216).

Pastor Marco Antonio Larumbe desde el Distrito de Central Valley, Wash.



un edificio a una iglesia de hermanos pentecostales en el cual tenían los servicios de sábado y miércoles. Después la conferencia vio la necesidad de enviar un ministro para que liderara el grupo y entonces llegó el Pastor Collins.

Como la obra hispana creció de una manera radical en la zona, varios de los líderes formaron las iglesias



More photos online at glnr.in/112-06_accion



WHY WE DO CAMP

Camp is one of the best evangelistic tools the church has for reaching young people with the message of Jesus. Camp is a place where we combine our faith, fun and friendships in such a way children are willing and able to hear the voice of God for themselves. Teaching Jesus through classes, activities and everyday interactions is how we best reach young people through the camping experience.

Twelve-year-old Monica was devastated by the news that her parents were splitting up. She was normally a happy, energetic young lady, but this news destroyed her world.

One of her friends noticed the sudden change in her countenance and asked what was going on. Monica was embarrassed and ashamed to admit her world wasn't so perfect after all. They talked for a while. Even though it helped, Monica still felt emptiness inside.

Several weeks later, right before summer break, her friend asked her if she wanted to attend a Christian camp with her that summer. Monica did not grow up in a Christian home and wasn't sure how it would be but liked the idea of going to camp and forgetting about her troubles at home.

When Monica arrived, she was overwhelmed with the great staff and wonderful outdoor experiences. Each class started with prayer; evening programs were action-packed and taught valuable lessons. During that week Monica felt her life begin to change. She was introduced to Jesus as someone who loved her and would never abandon her. She enjoyed the classes and activities and built friendships she never thought possible.

When the Friday night program was over and the cabin group was sitting together sharing what they had

learned that week, Monica asked if she could be a friend of Jesus too. She shared the hurt and pain from home and how she had been outgoing and happy all the time to cover up the real pain she was feeling. After seeing the godly counselors and Christ-centered programming each day, Monica realized she needed what the camp was offering; she needed Jesus.

When I met Monica, she was 15 and had real joy in her heart — she had a personal friendship with Jesus. Her parents did divorce and her world as she knew it still fell apart, but she clung to the promises of the Bible and her faith in the One who said He would never leave her or forsake her. Monica says that would not have happened if it were not for summer camp.

Tobin Dodge, Alaska Conference camps director



JUNE 25—JULY 2, 2017
Teen Extreme Camp

WHERE
Camp Tukuskoya
Big Lake, Alaska

WWW.ALASKACAMPS.ORG

More photos online at
glnr.in/112-06-ak_tuk



CAMP TUK GETS FACELIFT

During their spring break, students from Tappahannock Junior Academy in Tappahannock, Va., and Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., gave up their valuable week off from schoolwork to converge on southcentral Alaska's Camp Tukuskoya (Camp Tuk) near Big Lake.

Camp Tuk is located about two hours north of Anchorage and is off the road system. Since 1956, junior, teen and even multiaged blind campers have enjoyed the boat ride across Flat Lake to this remote camp.

Volunteers from local Alaska churches joined students and their chaperones and drove over 7 miles of "ice road" across frozen lakes out to the camp. All worked together reroofing the craft building, sewing curtains for the original



Tappahannock Junior Academy students haul firewood for this summer's campfires.

cabins, and clearing space to begin construction of the new, three-season cabin that will be able to accommodate 20



Columbia Adventist Academy students celebrate their completed work.

campers and two staff.

The visiting students also had the opportunity to participate in the chapel program at Amazing Grace Academy in Palmer and then sang for the residents of Palmer's Pioneer Retirement Home. Sledding, ice fishing, glacier hiking and dogsled riding rounded out the trip for the 40 traveling workers.

More photos and videos are available on the Camp Tukuskoya Facebook page.

For more information, email AlaskaCampTuk@gmail.com.

Angie Monteleone, Eagle River Valley Church communication leader



Tappahannock Junior Academy students help clear the site for the new cabin.

Alaska Southcentral Camp Meeting

**PRAYING
OUR WAY
FORWARD**

July 18-22, 2017
with
**John Bradshaw ♦ Randy Maxwell
Darold Bigger ♦ Rick Mautz
Sue Patzer ♦ Steve Mosley
and Musician Laura Williams**

More photos online at glnr.in/112-06-id_AMEN



AMEN FREE HEALTH CLINIC IMPACTS BOISE

On April 18–20, Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) held its first free Impact Your Health clinic in Boise.

The health event, held at Expo Idaho, provided 1,300 patients with dental, medical, vision and other valuable services during the three-day event.

Hundreds of community members lined the sidewalk,

For years, Sandy, a welder, had suffered from blurry vision because of her profession. Upon attending the clinic and receiving an eye examination, she was given prescription glasses. It was the first time in years she could truly see clearly.

In addition to the medical care, haircuts, health education, a food bank and chaplaincy services were provided.

Daniel, who volunteered as a chaplain, described how Lilia, a woman in her 60s who lives alone, wept with delight after Daniel provided her spiritual care and support in her native Spanish language. She shared how coming to the clinic allowed her to connect with people and talk to people who truly care for her. She was overcome with gratitude that people would provide their time and service to help her

with her health.

But the patients couldn't have been served without the incredible efforts of the 750 volunteers from all over the Idaho area and beyond, who came to donate their time and skills to the clinic.

Among the hundreds of volunteers were students from Idaho's Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) who came each day to help. Many noted how the event helped them to realize how much more work connecting with the community is needed.

"I was working in the X-ray area as a translator and performing various tasks," says Karlin, a GSAA student. "Translating showed me how much more involvement is needed in our community. It allowed me to connect with people on a deeper level."

Each day the students

Lines to enter the health clinic remain strong throughout the day.



An individual gets their vision checked.

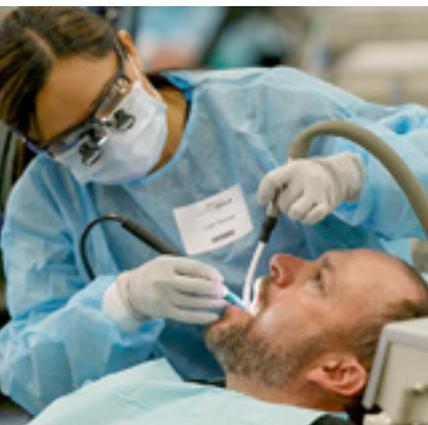
served in various sections of the clinic helping with registration, organization, security, and handing out snacks and water to the patients. No matter where the students helped out, they felt rewarded.

"Being a part of the hospitality group made me realize how important it is to connect with people," says Eli, another GSAA student.

The AMEN clinic provided a great opportunity to give back to the community, continuing the work of Jesus' ministry in going from town to town, healing the sick and sharing the gospel (Matt. 9:35).

View more photos of this event and learn about upcoming AMEN health clinics around the Northwest at glnr.in/112-06-id_AMEN.

Anthony White, North Pacific Union digital media coordinator



Numerous patients received various forms of free dental care.

awaiting to enter the building to receive medical services. On the first day of the event, more than 560 registered patients were seen, without turning a single person away. Each patient seen had a different story of how the clinic impacted their life.



More online at
glnr.in/112-06-id_film

BONHOEFFER FILM DRAWS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Slack season in a ski resort town. Monday night after Easter weekend. Not a good time to schedule a new event, especially one that has to do with a World War II Christian martyr.

But the Wood River Valley Church in Hailey did just that, and about 150 people — including a considerable number of young people — came on April 17 to view the new docudrama *Come Before Winter*, produced by Gary Blount, an Adventist psychiatrist from the St. Paul, Minn., region. Kevin Ekvall, the film's director, as well as three other key members of the production crew, studied film production at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn.

Immediately following the screening, there was a Q-and-A session with representatives from the sponsoring organizations. A majority of the audience remained for this discussion, expressing appreciation for the film's powerful depiction of courage and faith and wondering aloud if citizens in the local community would not be afraid to take resistive action when faced with evil akin to the Third Reich's.

Stephen McCandless, the new pastor at this small



Producer Gary Blount and Jerry Reinke, a minister, answer questions from the community following the screening.

Adventist church, invited the Wood River Jewish Community and the Valley of Peace Lutheran Church to co-sponsor the Northwest premiere of the film in the performing arts auditorium of the local junior college campus. Blount and his wife, Lee, agreed to attend the premiere as well as make a presentation on Easter Sabbath to provide additional background on the film.

Bonhoeffer, who was one of the founders of the Confessing Church, is perhaps best known for penning *Cost of Discipleship*, *Ethics* and *Life Together* and for his role as an active anti-Nazi dissident who

was executed by the Third Reich just weeks before the end of World War II in Europe.

The screening helped Lutheran, Jewish and Adventist

leaders get acquainted as they met several times to plan event details. The event drew local media attention and brought a number of visitors to both the movie screening and Sabbath services.

The Lutheran and Adventist groups plan to organize some joint book or Bible study activities. The Jewish representatives also expressed interest in continued interaction such as sharing some Sabbath celebrations or discussion of Passover.

McCandless says, "When we label a person we dehumanize them and can then do to them whatever we want, just as we have just seen in this docudrama. I hope our community is better than this."

Juli Miller, Wood River Valley Church member

Much of the community remained after the screening for a Q-and-A session moderated by Steve McCandless, pastor, and paneled by Gary Blount, producer, and Jerry Reinke, a minister.



TOWNSEND SEES JESUS THROUGH FREE GLASSES

One little church with an average membership of about 15 regular members in Townsend had a big dream: to bring free vision care to a small community in central Montana that lacks an optometrist. With a few months of planning, a lot of prayers and help from Merlin Knowles, Montana Conference



Deanna Kokodka and Bertha Crogha of Missoula register each patient.



Braden Schellenberg, a student at Mount Ellis Elementary, distributes healthy snacks to the visitors.

president, that dream became a reality April 14–15.

In a rented county fairground expo building, a temporary vision clinic was set up that allowed each patient a professional eye examination. Patients, who normally would not schedule this kind of medical care, walked in and were registered. There were no identification or insurance requirements. The patients were to just come and be

treated free of charge.

Once registered, each patient had a regular eye examination. Optometrist Tasha Schellenberg spent quality time giving each patient a thorough exam. If a prescription was written, they were immediately taken to a table where a large selection of quality eyeglass frames were displayed. Once they chose their frames, the frames were sent off to have the prescription lenses put in, then the frames were shipped back to Townsend Church for dispersal.

The final stop was the pastoral station, where the patients were given the chance to have special prayer and to receive literature. In total, 134 patients were served during the two days of the free clinic.

It is such a blessing to

reach people where their physical needs are, then watch them open up with their spiritual needs as well. There were many requests for personal Bible study, stress-

relief counseling, parenting classes and numerous other needs. While the free eye clinic helped so many, the Townsend Church is excited about all the other possibilities that have opened up for them and to reach other areas in the community where the church can be actively involved.

Optometrist Gayle Daniels provided the use of the eye clinic equipment. Her foundation, Better Vision Better Hope, was responsible for the donation of the glasses.

Andrea Schellenberg, Townsend Church member

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PAA STUDENTS SHARE JESUS IN CUBA

More online at
glnr.in/112-06-or_paa



Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) students from Portland, Ore., were honored to join Andrews University (AU), located in Berrien Springs, Mich., for evangelistic outreach to Cuba to help continue the growth of the Adventist Church, despite five decades of government restriction on religion.

PAA students supported a larger evangelistic series implemented by Care for Cuba (CFC), an organization established by the Andrews University Master of Divinity (M.Div.) department. CFC supports Cuban pastors and Bible workers with much-needed resources while training graduate students in evangelism.

“It really was a miracle we were invited to come,” says Rita Barrett, PAA Spanish teacher and group leader for the PAA student missionaries.

“My first reaction was, ‘It is not possible,’” says Fernando Ortiz, the director of AU’s M.Div. program and founder of CFC. “We had never done it, our trip was full to capacity, and it was mainly for master-level students.”

“But as we prayed,” he continues, “the Lord impressed upon my heart that we should give it a try and work together

on this endeavor. As a result we ended up adding another evangelistic venue targeting youth, young adults and university students, and it was a huge success.”

The opportunity was not taken for granted. PAA students spent the entire school year preparing. They attended conferences about service work, kept journals, pre-planned children’s programs and practiced skits. They also studied Cuba’s language, culture and customs.

Once in Cuba, PAA students experienced palpable excitement from Cubans who have had limited contact with U.S. citizens. “People were so



PAA’s Spanish II and III students created children’s resources entirely in Spanish, putting their studies to great work and giving those not able to go on the trip satisfaction in their ability to be missionaries at home.

friendly and open with us,” says Adoniah Smith, a PAA junior. “We were able to invite so many people to the meetings just simply by hanging out in the plaza, playing Frisbee and making

friends with strangers.”

“Cuba has felt forgotten by the world, even the Adventist world,” says Ortiz. “We could not go there or send money for decades, and now it is time to recoup what we haven’t been able to do for 50 years.”

That’s why CFC doesn’t just come and go each spring. Every year, CFC distributes bicycles to pastors as well as laptops and tablets loaded with hundreds of books and ministerial resources.

“The children’s ministry leader told me she had never ever imagined [this blessing],” says Barrett. “She had just been told her husband would receive a bicycle and that she would be getting a laptop.”

As the trip came to a close, PAA students witnessed 222 baptisms. Since 2013, more than 800 new members have been baptized. “Indeed, the Adventist Church in Cuba is lively,” says Ortiz. “We bring the inspiration, the tools and the materials. It’s an avalanche of help to empower people who are passionate for God and solid Adventists who need a boost to be equipped to do more effective ministry.”



Adoniah Simon (left) says he was able to build friendships simply by playing Frisbee in the park. He opened the door to inviting people to meetings that resulted in 222 baptisms.

Liesel Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

OREGON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTES TO FILL ROLES, RESTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

On April 27, in a follow-up to the transition of Dan Linrud from the position of assistant to the president to that of Oregon Conference president, the Oregon Conference executive committee voted the following appointments and department restructuring:

Executive Committee Appoints New Assistant to the President

During its session on April 27, 2017, the Oregon Conference executive committee

voted to appoint Stan Beerman to serve as assistant to the president, filling the role vacated by Linrud when he transitioned into the role of president. Beerman has served many years as a pastor



Stan Beerman is now assistant to the president in Oregon Conference.

in the Northwest and served as Oregon Conference family ministries director and then ministerial director. He is now assisting the administrative team and helping with pastoral placement in churches.

Executive Committee Appoints New Ministerial Director

Also during the April 27

meeting, Oregon Conference executive committee voted to appoint Charles “Chuck” Burkeen to serve as ministerial director. Burkeen has served many years as a pastor in the Oregon Conference, as well as serving in the Oregon Conference headquarters as



Chuck Burkeen is now the Oregon Conference ministerial director.

the member ministries director, leading a team working with pastors and members in outreach and relational ministries. Burkeen will work with pastors as a coach and facilitator.

Executive Committee Votes to Restructure the Member Ministries Department

Finally during the April 27 meeting, the executive committee voted to restructure the member ministries department into two separate departments: outreach department and relational ministries department. It is believed that more specific focus may be given to each of these important aspects by separating them and having a director lead each area.

MILO STAFF FOCUS ON DISCIPLESHIP

Staff at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, have been praying this year for God to use them to make a difference in the lives of their students.

Chad Reisig, Milo Academy Church pastor, says it all started at Together As One in Eugene a few months ago, when his fellow educators admitted they had received no training on how to make disciples. “How can we make disciples if we don’t have any clue how to do it?” Reisig wondered. “Everyone agreed that we had identified an issue in how to move forward.”

After praying about it, Reisig felt impressed that trained pastors needed to help train educators on discipleship. He shared the vision with Randy Thornton, Milo Academy principal, who was equally convinced of the benefit of enhancing discipleship skills among Milo staff. They began a discipleship training series at the next staff meeting.

The weekly sessions included presentations by Reisig, small-group discussions and sharing with the whole team. Teacher Darla Milam says, “It’s

helped me to have a fresh look at the way I teach and to be more intentional with my worship thoughts and interactions with students. It also brings us



Chad Reisig presents “The Gospel Changes Everything,” part of the discipleship training series he created for Milo Academy staff.

closer together as staff.” Students also appreciate the effort faculty invest in discipleship.

Milo staff have taken extra time to spend in prayer together this semester and are thankful for the ways God is working in the lives of their students.

For more information about teen discipleship, contact Reisig at chad.reisig@miloacademy.org.

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter

Read more online at glnr.in/112-06-or_milo

GRANTS PASS PATHFINDERS WELCOME NEW LEADER

The joy of young people serving the Lord was on display at the Grants Pass Church during Pathfinder Sabbath on March 30.

Pathfinder Sabbath included the processional, Scripture and prayer, praise music, and drama. Enthusiastic young people communicated God's love. Highlights of the past year were shared, which included community outreach and evangelism.

Eric Wagner was called to be director late in the Pathfinder year. His leadership

skills and rich experience with Pathfinders have made him an ideal choice to fill this position.

Wagner is the co-founder of i7 Marketing, a full-service online marketing agency. When asked why he accepted the call to be Pathfinder director, he replied, "I believe God wanted me to. If God wants me doing this, I know that's where I need to be."

He remembers how Pathfinders gave him a chance to learn and experience in diverse areas like model rockets, first aid, archery



and sewing. Wagner credits Pathfinders for providing positive reinforcement and the desire to learn and grow. "Looking back, I can see that those early morning worship and religious discussions with my unit counselor on camping trips had a huge impact on who I am today," Wagner says.

As director, he sees the objective of Pathfinders as "growing committed

Christians and successful adults." Wagner hopes to provide each Pathfinder with interests, hobbies and skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. If the Lord wills, he will continue to serve as Pathfinder director in coming years.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader

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NEW GROUP PLANS TO 'GATHER AND SCATTER' GOD'S LOVE

It was the sunny Sabbath afternoon before Easter and had been a year in the making.

Ten leaders from the Remix Church had been meeting for over a year, dreaming and planning the launch of a new church in the Portland area. They were convinced Portland didn't need *another* church, but rather another *type* of church. A church where the main goal is to better love the people of Portland — to love them with all the beauty of the city, its hurts and its complexities. This team believes God has called all of us to love all people — regardless of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, spoken language or age — just like Jesus did.

They're praying that, by experiencing genuine love, people in Portland can connect with God, grow in community and join them in serving others.

After lots of planning, training and fundraising, the group launched their public worship service that April Sabbath afternoon, with more than 80 people coming together to celebrate what they believe was born in the heart of God: Gather and Scatter Adventist Church.

The name is reflective of the culture this group wants



to develop. They believe it is important to gather to worship the Creator, to celebrate what He has done, and cast a gospel-filled vision of a better future for their city and faith community. They believe gathering is as important as scattering throughout the week to love the city through ministry.

In order to do that, the group has launched partnerships with transition homes for youth, anti-sex-trafficking initiatives, Amnesty International and other service organizations. They have launched a young adult ministry, community service team, creative worship team, children's and teen ministries, a hospitality ministry, and an intentional discipleship ministry.

These members love seeing how the Spirit of God works through such a diverse

group of people with more than 10 nationalities represented at Gather and Scatter. They believe God is strategically positioning them to reach young adults in a diverse context and in an urban setting.

Gather and Scatter will soon be celebrating baptisms as the fruit of the work God has been doing within a church-planting team that has taken Jesus' Great Commission seriously.

To learn more about Gather and Scatter and get to know its leaders, make sure to visit their website, gatherandscatter.org, or social media pages, [facebook.com/gatherandscatter](https://www.facebook.com/gatherandscatter) and [instagram.com/gatherandscatter](https://www.instagram.com/gatherandscatter).

Edwin Vargas, Gather and Scatter Church pastor



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



UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

JUNE 14–17, 2017, SPANGLE, WASH.

There's something powerful about gathering together with other believers to worship together and share what God is doing.

This year, Upper Columbia Conference invites you to come together for a special gathering at Upper Columbia Academy: our annual camp meeting, June 14–17, 2017.

As we gather together this year, we'll be focusing on looking to Jesus. It will be a time to share and learn about keeping our eyes on Him as we wait for His soon return.

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

Make plans to come and experience an old-fashioned camp meeting complete with a giant meeting tent set among the beautiful Palouse wheat fields. Bring the whole family

for an unforgettable camp meeting experience.

On Thursday and Friday you'll enjoy seminars on Ellen White, healthful eating,

understanding Medicare, soul winning, the book of Ephesians and more.

Our keynote speaker for camp meeting this year is Mark Finley.

Finley is the former host and director of *It Is Written* and the first Seventh-day Adventist pastor to do a satellite evangelistic series. He also served as one of nine vice presidents for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and has written more than 74 published books.

Evangelism is where Finley made his mark on the world, presenting more than 150 evangelistic meeting series around the globe in about 80 countries, with resulting baptisms numbering in the thousands. His best-known association is as a television speaker for the current series *Experience Hope*, a weekly

broadcast of the Hope Channel, and for the *It Is Written* telecast of 13 years.

Finley and his wife, Ernestine "Teenie," have teamed up in ministry throughout the years and share a family of three grown children: Deborah, Rebecca and Mark Jr.

In addition to the inspiration and fellowship, you will be blessed with the music of Rudy Micelli. Born and raised in Bagé, Rio Grande do Sul, in southern Brazil, Micelli began singing in church with his family at age 3. At the age of 13 he was conducting the senior choir at his church.

As a young man, his extraordinary talent caught the attention of secular musicians, which eventually led to a life of emptiness in the glitzy world of entertainment. But the Spirit of God never stopped tugging at his heart. One night, at the very depths of darkness, Micelli finally listened. He rededicated his life to Lord and never looked back.

More online at
glnr.in/112-06-uc_cuba

'CAN WE GO TO CUBA?'

As members of Idaho's Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Church neared the end of a mission trip to Guatemala in March 2016, they were already asking, "What are we doing next year? Where are we going on our next mission trip?"

"Can we go to Cuba?" asked Ben Rodriguez, who was on his first mission trip and couldn't wait to go again.

now a retired physician, had only been back once briefly.

Through a variety of contacts, a plan began to develop slowly.

There are many Adventist churches in Cuba across the nearly 800-mile long island. While these churches are allowed to function as places of worship, building new churches has been illegal in Cuba since the revolution ended in 1959. But the church has found a way to grow in these frontline cities with something called "Houses of Light."

A few years ago, it also became legal for Cubans to buy and sell property. A Bible worker can move into the house, sharing Jesus in the



The group asks God to bless the worksite.

town. As interest in the Advent message grows, permission can be obtained for this new group of Seventh-day Adventists to worship together in this home. Using this model, Houses of Light are beginning to slowly shine across the country.

Excited about this work, Rodriguez and Tye Davis, CDA Church associate pastor, traveled to Cuba in January and found a house to purchase. A group of missionaries would go in March to renovate the house to be the newest Adventist presence in Cuba.

About a month later, the sale of the house fell through.

Rodriguez, Henneberg and Davis headed back to Cuba. By the end of that trip, they realized why everything had fallen through. They purchased a better house for less money in a more populated city. The work project was more significant, as it included a new construction project for some Sabbath School rooms behind what would eventually be a new House of Light.

When 29 CDA missionaries were in Cuba, they faced several unexpected challenges, perhaps the biggest being the local government shutting down the construction project halfway through the work week. Despite those challenges and setbacks, walls were repaired and the entire house was repainted. All the plumbing was redone. They even received the permit necessary to worship there and did a week-long evangelistic series and kids' program. Perhaps best of all, they created relationships that will last for eternity.

To see more pictures from CDA Cuba trip, visit CDA Adventist on Facebook.

Tye Davis, Coeur d'Alene Church associate pastor



(From left) Marcos Ferreira, Tye Davis, Jake Wilkinson, Nestor Rivero and Curtis McCombs prepare to distribute copies of *The Great Hope* in Spanish.

Inspired by his friend, Tony Henneberg, Rodriguez wanted the next mission trip to be to Cuba.

Henneberg had lived in Cuba as a teenager in the 1950s while his dad served as conference president there. His family left Cuba when Fidel Castro and Che Guevara won the revolution. Henneberg,



Ben Rodriguez (center) and Nathan McGee (right) lay bricks.

More online at
glnr.in/112-06-uc_uca



UCA STUDENTS HELP FEED THE PEOPLE OF NAIKARA

When Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) students held spring break medical and dental clinics in African villages around the Masai Mara, they didn't just distribute much-needed shoes to Kenyan children and adults. They discovered that miracles still happen.

The 31 UCA students were joined by two doctors, two dentists and two nurses. The students had raised enough money to buy food to feed 200 families. But, according to faculty sponsor Dean Kravig, God had additional plans.

During the second day, the group prayed God would stretch the available food to feed everyone who needed it that day. By midafternoon, the trucks of food had been emptied.

Nevertheless, one of the lay pastors went back to check anyway. He found two large

sacks of food still there.

Within an hour, that food was gone, so they returned to check the trucks again. They found nine and a half more bags of food. During the next hour, they repeatedly found additional food in the trucks, even though the trailers were emptied each time.

Instead of feeding 200 families, more than 470 families were helped, with food left over — a reminder of the biblical story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. God clearly took the people of Naikara into His own hands, and UCA students were just channels of blessing.

This was a mission trip that these students and staff will not forget. They saw the power of God firsthand and know He was the one who provided food for the people.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant

The empty bay shows how impossible it would be to miss gunnysacks of food.



Summit Northwest Ministries is the top church donating blood to INBC.

MEMBERS GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE

When board member John Keighley mentioned holding a blood drive for Summit Northwest Ministries Church in Post Falls, Idaho, Ron Hessel, senior pastor, challenged him to make it happen.

Keighley took the ball and ran with it, holding the first blood drive about three years ago during the Christmas season. The response was so great they did it again at Easter and again the following Christmas.

Now three years strong, this year's event saw 44 members signed up to donate blood. The Inland Northwest Blood Center (INBC) needed to bring two of their buses to handle the response. This year they also brought out the bone-marrow match team, which 12 people joined.

On the donation day, people who have signed up to donate voluntarily miss one service or Sabbath School. Summit Northwest holds two Sabbath services, and the blood drive happens from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Over the last three years Summit Northwest Ministries has been leading all church blood drives in the Inland Northwest. INBC's Rob Balison says, "Thank you for your selfless donations and making everyday moments possible within our communities."



Bob Brewer, a physical therapist from Chewelah, Wash., and a Summit Northwest Ministries member, is giving life.

Only the love that flows from the heart of Christ can heal. As Ellen White says, "Love's agencies have wonderful power, for they are divine" (*Education*, p. 114).

Kathy Marson

TEEN MISSION ADVENTURE 2017 BUILDS BRIDGES

More photos online at glnr.in/112-06-uc_TMA



W

hat happens when teens and adults partner to serve people and communities right in their own conference territory? Bridges of appreciation and curiosity are built.

Just a few days after Teen Mission Adventure (TMA) 2017 concluded, this message went up on the community reader board in Fairfield, Wash.: “Thank you to the Teen Mission Adventure Team for painting and cleaning up winter in Fairfield.” The sign stayed up for the next two weeks.

Why was this small community so appreciative to the TMA group? Because of what this group did for their town in one week. These young people painted the basement of the community center, the sanctuary of the local Adventist church that had been damaged by water and the town hall office, plus did weeding and cleaning at the local senior care center.

Cheryl Loeffler, Fairfield city clerk and treasurer, shares, “Those kids can come back anytime. They were great.”

The TMA week is marked by a lot of hard work, laughter, worship mentoring for leadership and spiritual discovery.



Other projects tackled during the event included helping spruce up a neighbor’s home with paint, trim and new doors; painting the boys’ dorm at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash.; repairing a damaged greenhouse at the academy; building grow boxes, fencing and trails at a womens’ shelter; removing wallpaper at Discovery Junction in Spokane, Wash.; cataloguing the conference office library in Spangle; and raking leaves. Think the list is long? Try doing all these jobs in one week.

Besides the projects, there was time to play and connect as the entire group was divided into teams that worked together each day and unpacked their experiences during team time each evening.

Generation gaps disappeared as young and old(er) team members put their hands to tasks as a group.

Morning and evening worships included singing led by the teens and thoughts from older teens, adult staff and Richie Brower, Upper Columbia Conference associate director of youth and family life.

At the agape dinner Friday evening, story after story of God’s provision were told.



Miraculous weather changes and personal impact were shared.

Markus McIntyre shared an experience he had as he was weeding outside the Fairfield Care Center. A resident knocked on the window and said, “Young man, you have



restored my faith in young people.”

Another group recounted how the rain held off all morning while they worked, poured when they went inside for lunch and then stopped again until quitting time that afternoon.

Sunday morning the adventure ended with a farewell handshake, hugs and promises to be back next year.

Richie Brower, Upper Columbia Conference associate director of youth and family life

TOUCHET ADVENTIST CHURCH MARKS CENTURY OF SERVICE

Members from Touchet Church in southeast Washington celebrated their church's 100th anniversary on Sabbath, April 1, 2017.

In a simple service led by Paul Hoover, Upper Columbia Conference president, the members marked the significant milestone with testimony, Scripture and song.

"Today is bittersweet," said local elder Greg Zickuhr. "It would be better to be home with Jesus. But if we have to be here on Earth, there's no place I'd rather worship on Sabbath."

Another member said, "I praise God for this church. I've really found my home here. I'm so thankful for each of you."

Hoover said, "Why has this church endured for 100 years? Because we have built on a rock that will not fail."

One hundred years ago, on the afternoon of March



Children listen to a beautiful story about rock collecting and how God takes rough people and makes beautiful works of art for His kingdom.

31, 1917, Adventist believers in the Touchet area met at the J.W. Isaac home to organize a church. A nucleus of 20 members formed the new church. The number quickly grew to 29 before year was out.

The little company of believers had no church building and first worshipped together in the Touchet high school in one of the classrooms. They later met

in the Touchet Community Church. A committee of four was chosen to look into the matter of constructing the current church building. It was planned for a church meeting place and a school building.

As the community grew and the school enrollment increased, it was necessary to build a new schoolhouse. The members decided to build on the present site on farmland

donated by N.C. Hanson. The funds were very scarce at that time, so all the labor was donated. Building was very slow work.

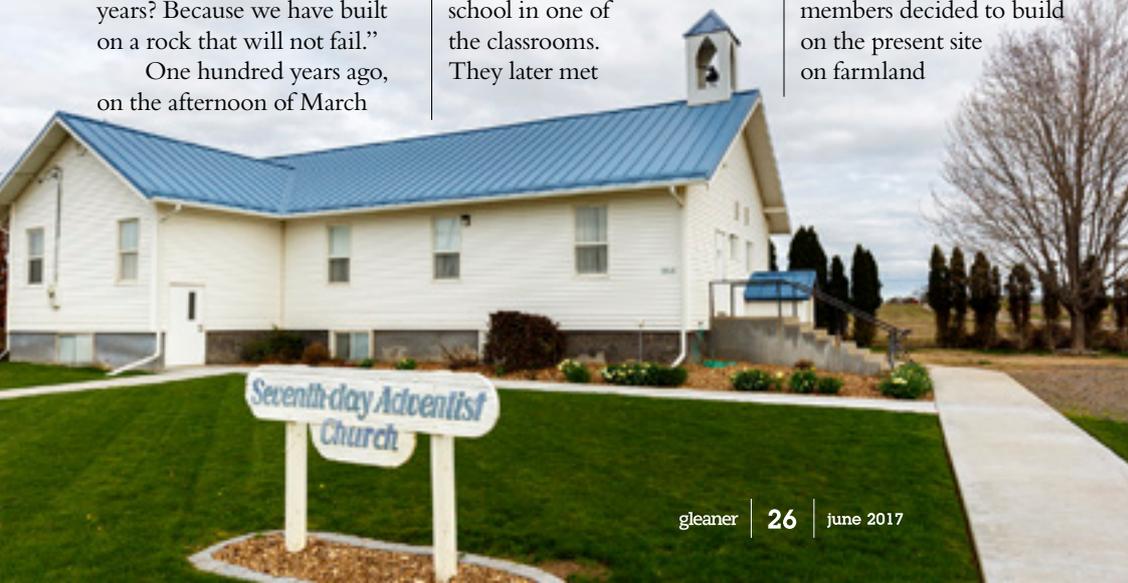
Construction on the present church and school building began in 1918. The members worked on the church as they could spare time from their farms and work. By the autumn of 1920 it was ready for use, after many long hours of hard work by the men that spring and summer.

Through the years this church has engaged in community visitation projects, the *Gift Bible* lesson studies, temperance information and the Ingathering program, to name a few.

Many theology students have had their first or early preaching experience in this little country church. Some have joined this church family for extended mentoring and contributing members to the Touchet Church family.

As the Touchet Church members look to the future, they pray God will continue to enable them to reach their community for Jesus, sharing His love and news of His soon return.

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



EVANGELISM PARTNERSHIP UNITES SOUTH SOUND MEMBERS

More online at glnr.in/112-06-wa_evangelism



It almost didn't happen. A couple years ago, Washington Conference and Voice of Prophecy began discussing a regionwide evangelism partnership.

One of the prequalifying factors? A venue that could hold a specific capacity, had to be solely booked for an entire month and have auxiliary rooms available. All 25 venues contacted in the Seattle area were already booked, too expensive or not interested.

"We began to pray even more," says Tyler Long, Washington Conference evangelism coordinator. "Then one day I received a call from the Washington State Fairgrounds, who told me about a new venue called the Agriplex. They invited me to come and see it."

When Long arrived in Puyallup, all he saw was an empty lot and a set of blueprints. Yet the plans and the fairground venue met every criteria. With reassurance of timely completion, Washington Conference signed the Agriplex's first contract.

While the builders did their job, a network of volunteers mobilized to join prayer teams, sign up for ministry training, offer Bible studies and prepare for supporting Revelation Speaks Peace seminar roles.

Just over 322,000 postcards offering Bible studies landed in South Sound mailboxes in September 2016. The newly trained Bible instructors picked up their returned postcards and knocked on 2,000 doors or sent follow-up letters to respond with the first of a series of Bible studies.

One lady — Jeannie Ramsdell — angrily said "no" four times by text message or in person before finally agreeing to Bible studies. (To see how this story started, look in the February 2017 *Gleaner* issue). Not only did she complete the Bible studies, she also found her diploma from the first time she participated in Discover Bible School 10 years earlier. Her Bible instructor, Carrie Stitt, drove her and three neighbors each night to the In Search of Meaning archaeology seminar and to Revelation Speaks Peace.

Five nights a week for a month, South Sound guests show up for Revelation Speaks Peace.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Jesse Churchill, North Hill Adventist Fellowship pastor, prepares to baptize Jeannie Ramsdell and Carrie Stitt.

Ramsdell and Stitt were baptized together on the final day of Revelation Speaks Peace.

Meanwhile, the pastoral and volunteer teams kept praying and planning. The venue — a modern barn-style building — was transformed into a carpeted seminar hall. (Attend camp meeting in person or via livestream to hear miracle stories.)

Opening night and the remaining five nights a week for the next month, 300 volunteers showed up to help with greeting and befriending 1,600

guests, running a Bible school (with 200 participants), leading a children's program (for more than 100 kids on weekends), feeding volunteers, providing guest services, and translating



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

These ladies became very close friends of faith through Revelation Speaks Peace: Brenda Hunter, Carrie Stitt, Muriel Hrbek, Jeannie Ramsdell and Ginger Manginelli. Each night, Stitt would drive three of these ladies plus a neighboring gentleman to Puyallup.

presentations into multiple languages.

"It was fun working together as a team," says Doug Bing, Washington Conference president. "Together we watched many of our new friends be baptized, and we anticipate more baptisms as our friends continue to study. We all hold special memories of partnering with God to reach our community."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

HUSBAND BAPTIZED BECAUSE WIFE NEVER GAVE UP

I realized it was time. It is time to do away with the old man and become a new one in Jesus Christ,” Cliff shared with the congregation on the morning of his baptism. “It was time.”

Cliff and his wife, Candy, had grown up in the town of Port Orchard. They fell in love and got married not long after high school. Candy and her extended family remained active in the church, while Cliff had little interest in spiritual things. But Candy was praying for Cliff ... for 42 years.

When Dustin Serns arrived as pastor of the Port Orchard Church last summer, Candy was head deaconess. On Serns’ first Sabbath, he gave everyone two “LIKE Card” bookmarks. LIKE is an acronym: **L**ist five to 10 people you would like to see baptized; **I**ntercede for them daily; **K**indness shown in words and deeds; and **E**ncourage in Bible study and decisions. The members kept one card in their Bibles as a prayer list and handed in the other copy for the church leaders to pray for. Cliff was the first name on Candy’s card.

A couple months later, revival speaker Lee Venden came to present an All About Jesus seminar. With unusual,



Candy and Cliff visit with Dustin Serns, Port Orchard Church pastor.

Spirit-led boldness, Candy said to her husband, “There is going to be a seminar at the church, and it is going to be life-changing. I want you to go with me.”

Cliff agreed to go for one night. Sure enough, it was life-changing.

“When I went to the seminar, God put a thirst in my heart. That thirst continued to grow through the Thunder in the Holy Land [follow-up Bible study group] and the Prophecies Decoded seminar,” Cliff shared. He had begun cultivating the habit of

spending time each morning in Bible study and prayer. He was attending church regularly with Candy.

When Serns presented the Prophecies Decoded seminar last March, Cliff drank in the Bible truths. He didn’t miss a single night. When an invitation for baptism was given, Cliff was among those who came forward.

On April 8, Cliff’s extended family packed onto the stage in support of Cliff for his baptism. He came up out of the water a new man in Christ and full of joy. Cliff’s mother-in-law reached out and grabbed Cliff’s hand, her eyes full of tears. Her face silently told the story of tireless labors in prayer on Cliff’s behalf for more than 40 years. Now she was seeing the answer.

“Never give up on praying for your loved ones,” Candy shared with the congregation. After 42 years of praying for her husband, she got to celebrate along with all of heaven. It was time.

Dustin Serns, Port Orchard Church pastor

BLESSINGS GIVEN, RECEIVED IN FIJI

Full of anticipation, a group of Puget Sound Adventist Academy (PSAA) juniors, seniors, staff and parents departed from Kirkland in March for an epic journey to Fiji.

As is PSAA's tradition, every two years the upper grades have the opportunity to experience a short-term mission trip abroad, and this year they were island-bound.



VLADIMIR BOKOV

Coach Brendan Rajah and PSAA students add extra energy to Vacation Bible School.

Their primary task was to help build a local church previously destroyed by a hurricane in the Raikiraiki area. Second, and always a favorite, was hosting a Vacation Bible School program, with singing in true Fijian style, interactive Bible stories and energetic games.

Prior to arrival, it seemed the weather would thwart church construction, but God provided the means to His plans. In the end, building projects goals were met with success.

The relationships and bonds formed made a special impact on all travelers. Senior Emily Borg says, "Fiji's people and scenery are beyond description and were by far my favorite parts of the trip. I never felt unwelcome or out of place, and everywhere you turned there was something bright and beautiful especially when in the warm company of the friends we made there."

Realizations like these prove that, while missionaries go to serve and bestow a blessing, they are often surprised and humbled by how blessed they are in return. It's a beautiful life lesson the Fiji mission group experienced firsthand and will remember long after their return home.

Anika Zebron, Puget Sound Adventist Academy teacher



VLADIMIR BOKOV

Senior Alyssa Dorland helps break ground at the church construction site.



During one of their stops, the Gig Harbor Adventist Fellowship youth pray for the city's commercial fishing families.

More online at
glnr.in/112-06-wa_gigharbor

GIG HARBOR YOUTH SERVE, PRAY FOR THEIR CITY

On a drizzly Sabbath morning in March, the youth from Washington's Gig Harbor Adventist Fellowship (GHAF) traded the warmth and comfort of their regular meeting room for a wet and chilly walk through downtown Gig Harbor.

Instead of their regular Bible study class, they picked up trash from the sidewalks and street gutters, stopping several places along the way to pray for the city. "It was cold and rainy," adds Joel Barrett, "but what was most important was serving and praying for our community."

Judy Hart, one of the youth leaders, says, "I loved how the youth embraced this activity. No one seemed embarrassed or annoyed that we were out picking up trash and stopping at random spots to pray."

At some of the stops the group prayed for specific things Gig Harbor is known for — its tourists, boaters and

city events; its downtown waterfront businesses; and its fleet of family-run commercial fishing boats. Other prayer stops focused on Gig Harbor's schools, teachers, students, families, neighbors and churches.

Besides leaving the city a little cleaner, the GHAF youth leaders believe activities like this will inspire the youth to build lifelong habits of staying connected with God, desiring the well-being of their neighbors and living in service to their communities. "It felt rewarding to play an important part in praying for the community and ushering God's presence into Gig Harbor," says youth Ben Comfort.

Learn more about GHAF at gigharboradventistfellowship.org, search for it on Facebook or email ghafinfo@gmail.com.

John Barrett, Gig Harbor Adventist Fellowship member



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Denise Dunzweiler, dean

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

Understanding each student's background, interests, and challenges has always been important to be an effective teacher. It has more recently become clear, though, that teachers need special training to inclusively educate students with disabilities. That's why our School of Education and Psychology is offering a new minor with certification in special education (SpEd), starting this summer at the undergraduate level, as well as a SpEd Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) and Master of Education (M.Ed.).

Special education-trained teachers meet the special needs of children ages 3 to 21 years, according to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Having an endorsement in this area adds not only to the effectiveness of a teacher, but also to their marketability, for there is a nationwide teacher shortage in SpEd, according to the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education (2016-17). The new program aligns with the mission of the North American Division Office of Education, which, endeavoring to meet the needs of all students in its Seventh-day Adventist school system, developed an inclusive teacher training manual, *Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven* (REACH). The REACH training manual

includes resources and ongoing support to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Teachers who graduate from the School of Education and Psychology's special education programs will be able to teach inclusively, meeting the needs of all students in one classroom or in segregated special education classrooms in both private and public schools. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics database, 13 percent of students in public schools are in special education programs. While statistics are not as readily accessed for private schools, the needs are clearly great. When you shape the life of a student with disabilities, you are shaping the future.

Education degrees offered

- Elementary Education (B.S.)
- Secondary Education Certification
- Education minor
- Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)
- Master of Education (M.Ed.)
- Master of Initial Teaching (M.I.T.)

For more information about studying education at Walla Walla University, visit education.wallawalla.edu.

See for yourself: visit.wallawalla.edu



ENGINEERING PROFESSOR RETURNS FROM WINTER PROJECT IN GUAM

While members of the Walla Walla University (WWU) community struggled their way through mounds of snow and subzero temperatures last winter, Rob Frohne, professor of engineering, enjoyed the tropical climate of Agat, Guam. Frohne spent winter quarter on sabbatical applying his electrical engineering skills at the Adventist World Radio (AWR) shortwave station for the Asia/Pacific region.

Frohne has helped at Guam's AWR facility a few times. During this 10-week visit, the staff tasked him with uncovering why the transformers at the station caused the town's lights to dim. "I was able to solve that problem while I was there," he reports, "but as soon as you finish one problem, there's another problem." Frohne spent the latter part of his sabbatical continu-

ing a project he started four years ago: making prototype filters for the transmitters.

The professor's passion for radio developed as a child when his older brother gave him a shortwave receiver. "I grew up in Alaska, and at that time all the stations there were secular," Frohne says. "I hooked [my receiver] up to an antenna and discovered that I could listen to this [Christian] radio station called HCJB from Quito, Ecuador, on the shortwave spectrum."

A loyal listener, Frohne received an aerial photo of the HCJB campus in the mail. The forest of antennas at the station filled him with awe. "At that point, a dream materialized in this boy's heart: 'Wouldn't it be cool if the Adventists had a station like this?'" he recalls. "If you fast-forward to after I started teaching, I went out to help at AWR. I was out there

working on their antennas and then it hit me — wasn't this the dream I had as a kid?"

Sabbatical leaves require professors to gain experience in their field, but Frohne and his wife, Barbara, adopted the motto "work hard, play hard" for their stay. They kept busy even during off-hours, whether camping with the church or snorkeling in the ocean. "Sabbatical is kind of like a vacation, but it's better than a vacation because you have a mission," Frohne says. "I have to admit, I would have liked to hang around for a little bit longer." Before returning home, they stopped in Pohnpei, where Barbara was a student missionary in the 1980s.

Frohne's trips to Guam have not only given him "war stories" for the classroom — they've left him with valuable connections, which have even translated



Rob Frohne

into hands-on lab projects for WWU engineering students. "When I go there, it's kind of like seeing all my old friends," he says. "It was an incredibly good sabbatical."

If he keeps up with past trends, one thing's for sure: Guam hasn't seen the last of Rob Frohne.

Kyler Alvord, WWU university relations student writer



THE HEART AND SOUL OF SACRED WORK

Since she was a child, Jessica Lee envisioned one day entering a profession that involved caring for small children. She especially sensed her special connection with babies. Infants, in turn, seemed drawn to her nurturing voice and attentive heart.

With these qualities, it's no wonder Lee eventually pursued her sacred calling at Walla Walla University's School of Nursing with a desire to influence care and make a difference in the lives of moms and babies.

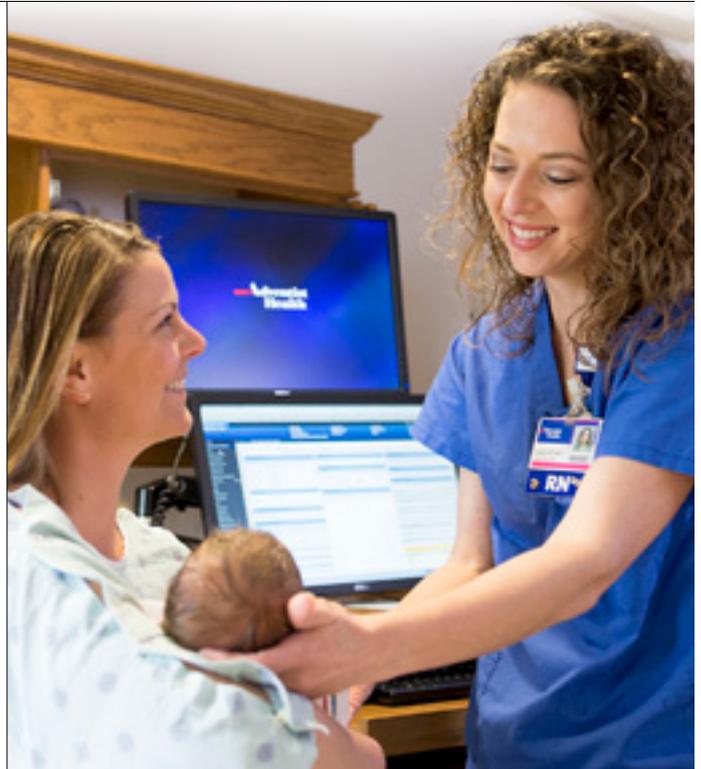
Now Lee finds tremendous joy working as a registered nurse at Adventist Medical Center's Family Birth Place in Portland, Ore., where she consistently demonstrates an innate ability to bring peace and calm to moms and babies.

"There's something very special about helping new life

enter the world," says Lee. "Three generations of my family have been in health care. I knew it was where I could make the greatest difference for others."

Because of her skill and compassionate care, Lee was recently nominated and selected by her peers for the hospital's DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award, an honor commemorating extraordinary nurses. Lee was recognized for her incredible gift of bringing comfort and support to vulnerable, scared and panicked patients.

One such patient arrived in the Family Birth Place after a failed attempt at a home birth. Lee was assigned to her care. Hoping for a completely natural delivery, the birthing mother was experiencing fear about being in the hospital setting to give birth.



Jessica Lee (right) was selected by her peers to receive the hospital's DAISY award for her sacred work of providing comfort and care to vulnerable mothers and their babies.

Lee quickly established a trusting relationship with this patient, calmly and firmly reassuring her through each contraction over the next several hours, determined to help this frightened mother safely bring her baby into the world.

"When this patient arrived I could tell things were getting out of control for her," Lee says. "I told her we could put her back in control, but it was going to take her full trust in me and my full trust in her."

Thanks to Lee's diligence and determination to provide top-notch care, this patient

achieved the unmedicated delivery she so strongly desired.

"All of us had tears in our eyes as this delivery came to an end," recalls one of Lee's team members. "It was an incredibly intense and emotional experience for all of us."

This special delivery was just one of many Lee has helped give her patients as she brings Christ-centered care to Adventist Health every day.

Judy Leach, Adventist Health Pacific Northwest Region vice president of strategy activation and communication

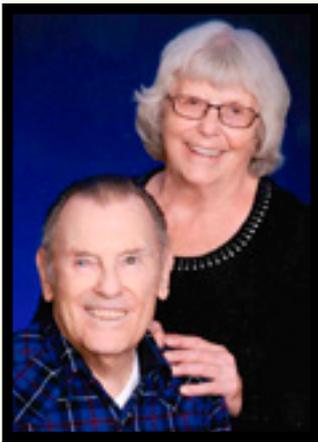
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Dean and Ruth Campbell

Campbell 65th

Dean and Ruth (Reed) Campbell celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on the Oregon coast New Year's weekend with all their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They met at Rogue River Academy and were married Dec. 29, 1951, in Medford, Ore., after their high school graduation.

After a few years in the army Dean worked at various jobs until 1973, when he started his own business building homes. The highlight of his building career started in 1978 when he began building many schools and churches with Maranatha Volunteers International in the U.S., Mexico and several other countries.

Ruth worked various jobs while being a stay-at-home mom with their four children. Then in 1969 she went back to school and graduated in 1972 with an associate degree in nursing. She worked at several hospitals in ICU units and joined Dean at many Maranatha projects.

The weekend was organized and hosted by their daughter Jackie Campbell Davis from Grants Pass, Ore., and was attended by their

three sons and their daughters-in-law — Brett Campbell of Post Falls, Idaho; Victor and Ana Campbell of Walla Walla, Wash.; and Bruce and Jeane Campbell of Post Falls, Idaho — plus 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Ruth and Dean now live in Post Falls, Idaho, near their two youngest grandchildren and two of their sons, while waiting for Jesus to return.

Grant 70th

To honor and celebrate 70 years of marriage, Ben and Carol Grant's three children hosted a catered dinner and family reunion on Jan. 21, 2017, in a converted country church near Eugene, Ore.

On Jan. 21, 1947, at the College Church in College Place, Wash., Carol Peterson and Ben Grant III were united in marriage.



Carol and Ben Grant

Through the intervening years, Ben and Carol spent time at Fort Bragg, N.C., where Ben served in the U.S. Army Dental Corp. Returning to Oregon they moved to Bandon, where for almost 24 years Ben had a solo dental practice and they both served their community and church.

In 1972, Ben was invited to teach in the restorative department at the Loma Linda School of Dentistry. Leaving the Oregon coast, they moved

to Southern California, where they lived for the next 18 years. Carol worked in an ophthalmology office, and Ben was also able to complete his Masters in Public Health. While living in the area, they joined the John T. Hamilton Chorale and enjoyed presenting concerts both in the United States and England, where they sang in Westminster Abbey.

After retiring in 1990, Ben and Carol moved to Boise, Idaho, where Ben embarked on an encore career of working in a plant nursery and Carol kept busy as a homemaker and grandma. Wanting to be closer to their two daughters, they relocated to Crooked River Ranch, north of Redmond, Ore., in 2000. A highlight of this location was having a spectacular view of the Three Sisters mountains from their home and wide-open spaces. In 2010, they returned to their Oregon roots and moved to Eugene, Ore., where they currently live.

During their time at Loma Linda and post-retirement, they were international travelers visiting 34 countries for dental education, choral performances, short-term mission trips and bird watching. They are still active in their local church.

The Grant family includes Kathryn and Gayle Wilson of Dallas, Ore.; Bradley and Kelly Grant of Merced, Calif.; Suzanne and Bill Dassenko of Eugene, Ore.; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

LaCom 90th

On May 1, 2016, a celebration of Jerry's 90 years took place. Jerry and her family,

along with some close friends, got together in Spokane, Wash., to share a delightful dinner and slideshow with pictures of Jerry's life. When Jerry was first approached about having a party she was a bit hesitant. But now she will tell you, "Everyone should have a 90th birthday party!"

Jerry Ivey LaCom was born May 9, 1926, in Des Moines, Iowa. When she was 17 she graduated from Oak Park Academy and decided this was



Jerry LaCom

the perfect time to go west. After a few stops along the way she settled in with an aunt and uncle in Glendale, Calif. She wasn't there too long when she met the boy next door, Alex LaCom. He was serving in the Army/Air Force and was soon sent off to fight in Europe.

Alex came back in September 1944 for a short visit with his family and began to court Jerry. Uncle Sam then sent him to Fort Wright in Spokane. But before he left Alex proposed to Jerry.

Jerry left California in January 1945, arrived in Spokane, and she and Alex were married before a justice of the peace. They were transferred to Santa Monica, Calif., then back to Spokane

where Alex was discharged. By this time they had fallen in love with Spokane, and that is where they stayed.

Jerry was a homemaker who did it all. She canned fruits and vegetables and filled the basement “fruit room” with jars of food to last the winter. She baked bread and made homemade ravioli. She was a seamstress who sewed dresses and tailored a suit for Alex.

She taught herself to knit and became a knitting machine. She knit sweaters and hats and scarves by the dozens for her grandkids and the kids of friends. She also knitted dozens of gorgeous Afghans, many of which she gave away.

Jerry also became a nanny to numerous boys and girls.

Many of those boys and girls, now grown with children of their own, still keep in touch with “Jerry Mom.”

Jerry and Alex loved to travel. They took road trips all around our country and together. Jerry has traveled to more than 40 countries. Both Jerry and Alex were active members of the Spokane Central Church.

Jerry and Alex were married for 53 years, until Alex passed away in 1998.

Jerry’s family includes Gary and Margi LaCom of Corinth, Miss.; Kristi (LaCom) and David Candler of Graham, Wash.; Richard LaCom of Spokane, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

McPherson 60th

Darrell and Fay McPherson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 29, 2016.

Darrell McPherson was born in Kent, Wash., and graduated from Auburn Adventist Academy. Dolly Fay Tulak was born in the township of Spallumcheen, British Columbia, Canada, and attended school at what is now called North Okanagan Junior Academy. She moved to Kent in 1954 and met Darrell during the church service at the Kent Church.



Darrell and Fay McPherson

Darrell married Fay on Dec. 29, 1956, in Kent. Darrell was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1956 and went to basic training in San Antonio, Texas. Fay, who was working at a local bank, left the job in early 1957 and moved to San Antonio. Darrell was subsequently transferred to Germany in April 1957 where he served as a medic for the next two years.

Fay joined Darrell in October 1957, and the two traveled throughout Europe during the next 13 months. They visited Germany, Austria, Italy, Luxembourg, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, England and Scotland. They returned in November 1958 just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Following his return to Washington, Darrell started his career in plumbing. Fay enrolled in Auburn High

School, completed her education and graduated in 1959. They lived in the Auburn area with their two sons until 1971 when they moved to Glendale, Ariz. They spent two years in the Phoenix area before moving back to Kent in 1974.

In the early 1970s, Fay started working for public school districts in Arizona and Washington. Both Darrell and Fay retired in 1996. In retirement, Darrell continued his hobby in aviation, and Fay enjoyed time with family and friends. The two also enjoyed traveling in their RV and visited Florida (where they saw the space shuttle take off) and the desert Southwest.

They also attended the camp meetings in Washington and British Columbia.

The McPherson family includes Darren McPherson of Auburn; Des and Jeannie McPherson of Wenatchee, Wash.; and 5 grandchildren.

Quast 50th

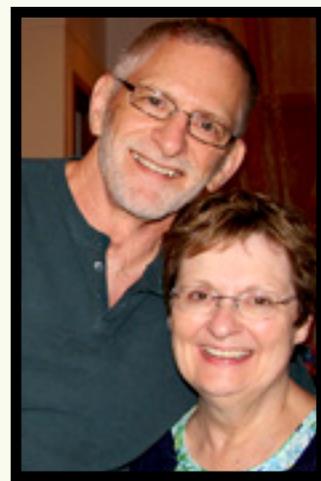
Richard “Rick” and Linda Quast celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 5–7 at Rockaway Beach on the Oregon Coast with their children and grandchildren.

Rick married Linda Braaten on Aug. 7, 1966, at the Hayward (Calif.) Adventist Church. They were both graduates of Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., and Rick completed his Masters of Divinity degree at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., for the next two years, while Linda worked as a registered nurse nearby in Buchanan.

Their pastoral ministry included churches in

Cincinnati, Columbus (Grove City and Reynoldsburg), and Ashtabula and Madison in Ohio Conference; Brainerd and Aitkin in Minnesota Conference; and in Washington Conference’s Lacey-Yelm, Enumclaw, Federal Way and Auburn City churches.

Rick retired in 2007, and Linda has worked part time in nursing while living in Federal Way. Their family includes Greg and Jennifer (Quast) Wendt of Hillsboro, Ore.; Doug and Emily (Fammartino) Quast of Portland, Ore.; and 3 grandchildren: Hayden Wendt, Vera Quast and Zoe Quast.



Rick and Linda Quast

Rick and Linda continue to enjoy travel in Europe and the United States, reading, gardening and entertaining at home. Linda enjoys crocheting, scrapbooking and piano, while Rick focuses on photography, cooking/baking and writing. Rick has authored a book of children’s stories, *Irvin, Where Are Your Toes?*

FAMILY BIRTHS

CLARK — AnnaLisa-Marie KarennahSue Violet was born July 19, 2016, to Matthew David and Brittany Alyssa (Cornwell) Clark, Walla Walla, Wash.

COONCE — Mary Ann was born Oct. 19, 2016, to Trevor and Katy (Lucas) Coonce, Modesto, Calif.

PAJEWSKI — Chaysen Daniel Scott was born Jan. 27, 2015, to Matthew David and Brittany Alyssa (Cornwell) Clark, Lacey, Wash.

SWOPE — Hannah Marie was born Feb. 21, 2017, to Timothy and Kerstin (Edstrom) Swope, Puyallup, Wash.

WITHERS — James Taylor was born Nov. 7, 2016, to Joshua D. and Sara M. Withers, Hillsboro, Ore.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

HICKETHIER-CARVER

Shelly Hickethier and Tom Carver were married Aug. 21, 2016, in Sisters, Ore. They are making their home in Issaquah, Wash. Shelly is the daughter of Dennis Hickethier and Cheryl (Cate) Hickethier Reimche Carver. Tom is the son of Michael Carver and Jackie Garcia.

REIMCHE-CARVER

Cheryl (Cate) Hickethier Reimche and Michael Carver were married Feb. 25, 2017, in Damascus, Ore., where they are making their home. Cheryl is the daughter of Laverne and Esther Cate. Michael is the son of Jack and Doris Carver.

FAMILY AT REST

AMES — Alice (Bolton), 95; born Nov. 27, 1920, Rosetown, Saskatchewan, Canada; died Sept. 18, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, Jack, Kenneth, Mark and Robert; and daughter, Jeanine Grassi.

ANDERSON — Jean Marie (Wells) Roberts, 47; born April 30, 1969, Washington, D.C.; died Jan. 29, 2017, Bothell, Wash. Surviving: husband, Fred; sons, Patrick Roberts, Elk Grove, Calif.; David Anderson and Kyle Anderson, both of Bothell; stepsons, David Anderson, Kenmore, Wash.; Fredrick Anderson, Kirkland, Wash.; and mother, Barbara Jean Wells, of Pennsylvania.

BEEZLEY — Reatha Darlene (Renfroe), 76; born Nov. 20, 1939, Portland, Ore.; died Sept. 20, 2016, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: identical twin sister, Freada Arlene Renfroe Johnson, Irrigon, Ore.

BISSELL — Gordon Ovey, 87; born May 1, 1929, Torrington, Wyo.; died Feb. 13, 2017, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Joan (Sharp); sons, Lee, Culver, Ore.; Lewis, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Larry, Pasco, Wash.; Lafe, College Place; daughters, Linda Hickerson, Clackamas, Ore.; Laurie Roosma, Walla Walla; Lisa Paulson, Angwin, Calif.; Lavonne Bissell, Edmonds, Wash.; 17 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BRAMBLEE — Randolph L., 56; born Jan. 27, 1961, Sandpoint, Idaho; died March 3, 2017, Spirit Lake, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Thomas and Randall, both of Spirit Lake; mother and stepfather, Armeta Kay (Blood) and Duane Galland, Spirit Lake; and sister, Sherrie Benway, Athol, Idaho.

BROWN — Gerald Lowell, 85; born July 15, 1931, Brawley, Calif.; died Nov. 13, 2016, Orofino, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Barbara (Van Elswyk); daughters, Cheryl Maas, Peck, Idaho; Karen Sween, Orofino; brothers, Galen Brown, Orofino; Bertel Brown, Crescent City, Calif.; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

BURSELL — Louanne Jade (White), 60; born Jan. 3, 1956, Bay City, Mich.; died Dec. 11, 2016, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Victor; sisters, Julie White, Yucaipa, Calif.; Gena Hawkins, Phoenix, Ariz.; and Marlou Henderson, Arlington, Wash.

CARBAUGH — Wanett A. (Null), 76; born July 11, 1940, Boulder, Colo.; died Jan. 15, 2017, Medford, Ore. Surviving: husband, Eldon; son, Lonnie, Ardmore, Okla.; daughters, Lanett Merrills and Lane Kivett, both of Medford; nephews, Lowell Hein, Bradenton, Fla.; Mark Hein, Albuquerque, N.M.; niece, Denise Kinyon, Magalia, Calif.; 8 grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

CURRIE — Merwin L., 72; born March 23, 1944, Spokane, Wash.; died Dec. 15, 2016, Spokane. Surviving: wife, Lela (Birth), Spangle, Wash.; sons, Michael, Spokane; Merwin Jr., Miles City, Mont.; daughters, Melissa Wallen, Moses Lake, Wash.; Moniqua Tretteen, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; stepdaughters, Julie (Anderson) Hood, Fort Mohave, Ariz.; Bethany (Anderson) Bitton, Deer Park, Wash.; sisters,

Nadine Nelson, Moscow, Idaho; Floy St. Sauver, Suisun City, Calif.; and 13 grandchildren.

DAVIS — Shirley Louise (Van Derschelden), 80; born Nov. 19, 1936, Tonasket, Wash.; died Feb. 17, 2017, Republic, Wash. Surviving: sister, Connie Nolan, San Antonio, Texas.

DRAKE — Bobbie Marie (Barnhurst), 82; born Dec. 8, 1934, Muskogee, Okla.; died Feb. 19, 2017, Moreno Valley, Calif. Surviving: daughter, Jeri Drake Lane, Port Orchard, Wash.; and 2 grandchildren.

DUDAR — Peter Donovan, 92; born July 7, 1923, Two Hills, Alberta, Canada; died Jan. 22, 2016. Surviving: wife, Rosamond E. Dudar; sons, Peter Jr., Gary and Brian; and 2 grandchildren.

FLEMING — Howard Raymond, 89; born Nov. 23, 1927, Spokane, Wash.; died Feb. 9, 2017, Spokane. Surviving: son, Dana, Spokane; daughter, Gale Fleming-Griffin, Colbert, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

GIARDE — June Ellen (Anderson), 88; born Aug. 1, 1928, Yuba City, Calif.; died Dec. 14, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: husband, Paul E., College Place, Wash.; son, Raymond, College Place; daughter, Paulette Riggle, Sebastopol, Calif.; brother, Raymond Anderson, Vero Beach, Fla.; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

HIERSCHE HILL — Emogene Elizabeth, 95; born Nov. 5, 1921, Madison, S.D.; died Feb. 1, 2017, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: son, Daniel Hiersche, Ellensburg, Wash.;

FAMILY AT REST

daughter, Susan Lundquist, Pendleton; 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

HUBBARD — Josephine Marie (Wolf), 97; born Nov. 17, 1919, Salem, Ore.; died Jan. 19, 2017, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Richard, College Place, Wash.; daughter, Gail Stumph, College Place; 7 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

HUTSON — Berniece Lauretta (Wart), 93; born Nov. 30, 1923, Silverton, Ore.; died Jan. 8, 2017, Wilsonville, Ore. Surviving: sons, Brad, The Dalles, Ore.; Don, Hood River, Ore.; daughters, Karen Hutson, Seattle, Wash.; Sandy Hutson, Wilsonville; 5 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

ISEMINGER — Allen James, 87; born Aug. 16, 1929, Buffalo, Wyo.; died Jan. 20, 2017, College Place, Wash.. Surviving: wife, June (Kyle); sons, Mel, Cashmere, Wash.; Myron, Burtonsville, Md.; daughter, Karen Iseminger, Alexandria, Va.; sister, Annette Chase, Portland, Tenn.; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

KABANUK — Ella May (Horob), 91; born May 16, 1925, Bainville, Mont.; died Dec. 2, 2016, Centralia, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Onnette Wright, Chehalis, Wash.; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

KIRCHER — Marion E. (Jones) Figgins, 92; born Dec. 5, 1916, Portland, Ore.; died April 9, 2009, Portland. Surviving: daughter, Kristine Schulze, Gresham, Ore.; and 2 grandchildren.

KNAPP — Don A., 83; born March 12, 1932, Corvallis,

Ore.; died Oct. 25, 2015, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Mary (Eastman); son, Michael, Medford; daughter, Ronda Camarena, Crescent City, Calif.; and 3 grandchildren.

LAKE — Donald Belos, 94; born May 29, 1922, Loma Linda, Calif.; died Jan. 2, 2017, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Helen Maurine (Faubion); son, Dennis Belos Lake, Walla Walla; daughters, Barbara Corine Hill, Clarkston, Wash.; Karen Marie Vixie, Paradise, Calif.; 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

LANIER — William “Bill” F., 81; born July 16, 1935, Wisner, La.; died Oct. 14, 2016, Myrtle Creek, Ore. Surviving: wife, Gloria Joyce Lanier; 3 sons; 2 daughters; a brother; a sister; 20 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

LIND — Carroll F., 91; born March 13, 1925, Lodi, Calif.; died Jan. 1, 2017, Husum, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Jan Douglass and Sue Lundquist, both of Husum; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MAHONEY — Theresa Lucille, 69; born Aug. 30, 1947, Jamestown, N.D.; died Jan. 30, 2017, Portland, Ore.

MASON — Beth (Brandes), 85; born Aug. 11, 1931, Cleveland, Ohio; died Jan. 1, 2017, Salem, Ore. Surviving: husband, Jack, Turner, Ore.; son, Barney, Vancouver, Wash.; and a grandchild.

MELL — Raymond Leon, 77; born Nov. 9, 1938, National City, Calif.; died Oct. 28, 2016, Phoenix, Ariz. Surviving: son, Raymond W., Phoenix; and daughter, Lorena

Anne Mell, Phoenix.

MERKLIN — Keith, 95; born Aug. 29, 1921, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Feb. 16, 2017, Salem, Ore. Surviving: wife, Ann G. (White); sons, Larry, Lake Oswego, Ore.; Brian, Las Vegas, Nev.; daughter, Linda Barnes, San Tan Valley, Ariz.; sister, Barbara Vories, College Place, Wash.; 6 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

MORASCH — Wilda Rae (Means), 94; born Aug. 5, 1922, Winona, Wash.; died March 19, 2017, Tacoma, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Susan Gardner, Federal Way, Wash.; and Lynn Morasch, Tacoma.

PELLOW — Nancy Ann Weeks (Sowards); 67, born April 6, 1949, Everett, Wash.; died Jan. 28, 2017, Republic, Wash. Surviving: husband, Bill; stepson, James Pellow, Dixie, Wash.; stepdaughters, Lisa Pierce, Seattle, Wash.; Janelle McCombs, Pendleton, Ore.; sisters, Judy Schnelle, Wenatchee, Wash.; Sally Faulkner, Everett; Mary Betts, Walla Walla, Wash.; and 6 step-grandchildren.

PETRICKO — Ella Gladys (Lydie), 81; born Sept. 25, 1935, Vernonia, Ore.; died Feb. 13, 2017, Salem, Ore. Surviving: stepsons, Will Petricko, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Bob Petricko, Albuquerque, N.M.; stepdaughter, Brenda Petricko, Benton, La.; brothers, Bill Lydie, Portland, Ore.; and Clyde Lydie.

RIMA — Darlene Beverly (Gerard), 86; born Sept. 7, 1930, in Idaho; died Feb. 14, 2017, Kingman, Ariz. Surviving: husband, Edward,

Bullhead City, Ariz.; sons, Nels, Phoenix, Ariz.; Russell, Bullhead City; brother, Arnold Gerard, Camp Verde, Ariz.; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

SHEPARD — Frederick, 82; born May 25, 1934, Long Beach, Calif.; died Jan. 23, 1917, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Ellen (Terpening); sisters, Vernice Krall, New Berlin, Pa.; and Versel McCall, Central Point, Ore.

SODERBERG — Doreene Elaine (Castle) Fredeen, 80; born Feb. 21, 1936, Yakima, Wash.; died Feb. 18, 2017, Surprise, Ariz. Surviving: daughters, Cheryl (Fredeen) Burden, Snohomish, Wash.; Loni (Fredeen) Rahm, Chelan, Wash.; stepsons, Loren Soderberg and John Soderberg, both of Portland, Ore.; stepdaughters, René (Soderberg) Ayers, Portland; Karen (Soderberg) Mckenzie, Columbia, Tenn.; 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

STONEMAN — Lowell, 93; born Oct. 2, 1922, Milton, Ore.; died Feb. 8, 2016, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Lois, Ukiah, Calif.; daughter, Verl Giese, Ukiah; sisters, Shirley Brunetti, Post Falls, Idaho; Beverly Silcox, Oceanside, Calif.; and 3 grandchildren.

TOEWS — Elizabeth “Betty” I. (Mickel) Brazeal, 81; born May 18, 1935, Loma Linda, Calif.; died Dec. 23, 2016, Ronan, Mont. Surviving: son, Robert Brazeal, Modesto, Calif.; daughter, Lorraine Frost, Ronan; 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WARD — Margarete Ann (Erikson), 89; born Feb.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

19, 1927, Sioux City, Iowa; died Jan. 24, 2017, Portland, Ore. Surviving: husband, Charles Ward, Gresham, Ore.; son, Jeffrey, Portland; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WINDELS — Clarence Herman, 92; born Oct. 3, 1924, Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada; died Nov. 21, 2016, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Emma Evelyn (Holdal); sons, Merlin Clair, Kent, Wash.; Denis Clyde, Meza, Ariz.; brother, Clifford Karl Windels, Vegreville, Alberta, Canada; sisters, Janet Windels, Glendale, Calif.; Lisa Windels, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

WOHLCKE — Richard “Rich” Emil, 71; born April 15, 1945, Nampa, Idaho; died Feb. 6, 2017, Richland, Wash. Surviving: wife, Janet (Fessler), Adams, Ore.

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

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

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

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

June 3 — Local Church Budget;
June 10 — World Budget: emphasis on Multilingual Ministries/Chaplaincy Ministries;
June 17 — Local Church Budget;
June 24 — Local Conference Advance.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

June 9–11 — Graduation weekend at WWU will include consecration Friday evening, baccalaureate and dedication services on Sabbath, and commencement on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. wallawalla.edu/grad.
Aug. 26 — WWU alumni are invited to join guest speaker Paul Dybdahl, professor of mission and New Testament, for Alumni Sabbath at Rosario, Wash. Reservations available beginning June 20. wallawalla.edu/rosario-sabbath.

OREGON CONFERENCE

Oregon Conference Regular Session

Notice is hereby given that the fifty-eighth regular session of Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held Sept. 17, 2017, at the Portland Adventist Academy auditorium, located at 96th Avenue and SE Market Street in Portland, Ore. The session will begin Sunday morning at nine o'clock. This regular session is called for the purpose of electing officers and members of appropriate committees for the ensuing term, and for transacting other business that may properly come before the Conference. Each organized church in the conference is entitled to one delegate. An additional four hundred (400) delegates shall be apportioned among the churches of the conference, prorated on the basis of the third quarter membership report of the preceding year.

Dan Linrud, president

Dave Allen, vice president/administration

Strawberry Vespers

June 17 — The 36th annual Strawberry Vespers will be at the Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., in Portland at 6 p.m. Come and enjoy some of Portland's finest musicians performing religious music. Bring a friend, stay afterward and enjoy free strawberry shortcake.

Mini Mission Trip

Aug. 25–27 — Oregon Conference women's ministries is co-sponsoring a mini mission trip with Bend women's ministries. Three Sisters Adventist Christian School is in need of repairs, painting, landscaping, fencing and cleaning. Meals will be provided for the workers starting Friday morning and ending Sunday noon. To register and for more information, contact Kathy Case, women's ministries leader, kcase47@aol.com, 541-317-9003 or 541-610-5701. Registration deadline is Aug. 11, 2017.

Oregon Christian Women's Retreat

Oct. 20–22 — 31st Annual Oregon Christian Women's Retreat at the beautiful Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Ore. Featuring Jennifer Ogden, of the Walla Walla University Church pastoral staff. For more information, visit our website orgcwomen.netadvent.org or call Jane Nicola 503-850-3555.

Prayer Breakfast for Women's Ministries Leaders

July 22 — Prayer Breakfast for Women's Ministries Leaders at Gladstone Camp Meeting. Please make your reservations by calling Jane Nicola 503-850-3555 or email Terrie Griebel at terrie.griebel@oc.npuc.org. RSVP as space is limited.

WORLD CHURCH

Okanagan Adventist Academy Homecoming

June 30–July 2 — Okanagan Adventist Academy in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, is celebrating 100 years of continual existence since 1917. We are seeking everyone who ever attended Okanagan Adventist Academy or was otherwise involved. Please join us for an opportunity to reconnect with friends and classmates and to see the wonderful things that are happening at your school. To register, please go to okaa.ca click on Alumni and complete the form or call 250-860-5305.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.

North Pacific Union Conference Directory

5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642
 360-857-7000 • fax 360-857-7001 • npuc.org
 Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

President John Freedman	Legal Counsel André Wang
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Secondary Keith Waters	Trust Chuck Simpson
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Early Childhood Coordinator Golda Pflugrad	Women's Ministries Sue Patzer
Hispanic Ministries César De León	
Information Technology Loren Bordeaux	
Associate Daniel Cates	

Local Conference Directory

ALASKA CONFERENCE

6100 O'Malley Rd.
 Anchorage, AK 99507-7200
 907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org
 Kevin Miller, president; Quentin Purvis, v.p. secretariat; James W. Jensen, v.p. finance

IDAHO CONFERENCE

7777 Fairview
 Boise, ID 83704-8418
 208-375-7524 • idahoadventist.org
 David Prest Jr., president; John Rogers, v.p. finance

MONTANA CONFERENCE

175 Canyon View Rd.
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 406-587-3101 • montanaconference.org
 Merlin Knowles, president; Sharon Staddon, v.p. administration and finance

OREGON CONFERENCE

19800 Outfield Rd.
 Gladstone, OR 97027-2546
 503-850-3500 • oregonconference.org
 Dan Linrud, president; Dave Allen, v.p. administration; David Freedman, v.p. finance

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

3715 S. Grove Rd.
 Spokane, WA 99224
 509-838-2761 • uccsda.org
 Paul Hoover, president; Doug R. Johnson, v.p. administration; _____, v.p. finance

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S.
 Federal Way, WA 98001
 253-681-6008 • washingtonconference.org
 Doug Bing, president; _____, v.p. administration; Jerry S. Russell, v.p. finance

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

204 S. College Ave.
 College Place, WA 99324-1198
 509-527-2656 • wallawalla.edu
 John McVay, president; Bob Cushman, v.p. for academic administration; Steven G. Rose, v.p. for financial administration; Hilary Catlett, interim v.p. for student life and mission; Jodeene Wagner, v.p. for university relations and advancement

Adventist Book Centers

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NAMPA ABC

1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193
 208-465-2532
 M–Th 8:30 a.m.–5:45 p.m.

OREGON ABC

19700 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, OR 97027
 503-850-3300
 M–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
 F 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
 Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

3715 S. Grove Rd., Spokane, WA 99224
 509-838-3168
 M–Th 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
 Sun 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324
 509-529-0723
 M–Th 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
 F 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Sun 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

AUBURN ABC

5100 32nd St., Auburn, WA 98092-7024
 253-833-6707
 M–Th 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
 F 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
 Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Classes

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

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a university archivist. This administrative staff position is responsible for the operation of the Andrews University archives program including planning, education, promotion, acquisition, processing, organization and disposition of university records. For more information or to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1311.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

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PACS (Portland Adventist Community Services) is seeking a full-time development associate to assist with fundraising/communications. Ideal candidate has annual giving, story writing, grant writing experience; Microsoft Office/Adobe creative apps. Communications, marketing or related degree preferred. Wages DOE. Send resume to paul.cole@pacsonline.org.

Events

JOIN US FOR RESTORATION INTERNATIONAL'S 20th NW Family Retreat held this year at Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Wash., July 5-9, 2017. Visit restoration-international.org or call Vernon and Karina Pettey, 406-890-1195.

OREGON ADVENTIST SINGLES SPIRITUAL RETREAT July 7-9. "Metamorphosis, God's Transforming Power" presented by Bob and Susie Ratcliff at Grove Christian Camp, Dorena, Ore. Lake activities, biking, hiking. Cost: \$135. Register online orgcfamily.netadvent.org/singles.

LAURELWOOD CLASS OF 1957 REUNION to be held on July 23, 2017, from 1:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Gladstone Church, 8378 Cason Rd., Gladstone, OR 97072. For additional

information, email Anna at anna@graysgrandview.com.

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Sunset Schedule // DST

June	2	9	16	23	30
ALASKA CONFERENCE					
Anchorage	11:21	11:32	11:40	11:43	11:40
Fairbanks	12:08	12:29	12:43	12:48	12:41
Juneau	9:50	9:59	10:06	10:08	10:07
Ketchikan	9:17	9:25	9:30	9:32	9:31
IDAHO CONFERENCE					
Boise	9:20	9:25	9:28	9:30	9:30
La Grande	8:33	8:39	8:42	8:44	8:44
Pocatello	9:02	9:07	9:10	9:12	9:13
MONTANA CONFERENCE					
Billings	8:57	9:02	9:06	9:08	9:08
Havre	9:13	9:19	9:23	9:25	9:25
Helena	9:14	9:19	9:23	9:25	9:25
Miles City	8:49	8:54	8:58	9:00	9:00
Missoula	9:23	9:29	9:32	9:34	9:34
OREGON CONFERENCE					
Coos Bay	8:51	8:56	8:59	9:01	9:01
Medford	8:42	8:47	8:50	8:52	8:52
Portland	8:52	8:58	9:01	9:03	9:03
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE					
Pendleton	8:38	8:43	8:47	8:49	8:49
Spokane	8:40	8:46	8:50	8:52	8:52
Walla Walla	8:37	8:43	8:46	8:48	8:48
Wenatchee	8:51	8:56	9:00	9:02	9:02
Yakima	8:48	8:53	8:57	8:59	8:59
Washington Conference					
Bellingham	9:05	9:11	9:15	9:17	9:17
Seattle	8:59	9:05	9:09	9:11	9:11

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June 14 conducted by NAARA, the morning of the UCC camp meeting. Also July 17 and 18 in Gladstone, Ore. Come to camp meeting two days early and qualify for your license. Information at naara.org.

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Law: 503-496-5500; stephanie@draneaslaw.com.

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LIFE MARKERS

A

t the time of this column I am wrapping up my second year of Ph.D. studies (and, no, I am not almost done). This semester's final torture came in the way of a qualitative study involving conversion narratives. Our class interviewed 36 people about their conversion looking at common themes and questions asked during their process. While I will spare you the technical details — since they are reserved for an academic conference this fall — one common trait stuck out and has given me cause for reflection both as a pastor and a believer.

Most of the interviewees acknowledged multiple conversion moments. Whether they grew up in the church or came to faith later in life each person recognized particular seasons and catalysts that moved them to a deeper experience with God.

Sometimes the occurrences were as simple as someone handing them a C.S. Lewis book to read on a long plane ride. Other times they involved supernatural light and visions.

One respondent told of having a conversion on a walk with a youth leader and later having that conversion sort of ratified by a drunken homeless man. While the youth group sat around a bonfire singing, a homeless man with a brown bag sat next to the newly converted respondent I interviewed. He remembers the

guy speaking utter nonsense for 30 minutes and then suddenly becoming lucid. He looked at the young man in the eye, said his name and told him the Lord has special plans for his life. Then the man went back to drunken gibberish and wandered away. The young man is a pastor now.

Whether miraculous or mundane, most if not all respondents had moments where they distinctly recall a shift from unbelief/nominal belief to a deeply personal faith. It made me think of my own conversion experience.

I grew up an Adventist preacher's kid and was baptized at 11 years old. However, my faith didn't become personal and experiential until I responded to an altar call at a large charismatic church in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

What all of the respondents indicated is that those moments helped sustain them through difficult times in the present. When doubts or discouragements erupt in their lives now, they can look back and reflect on those seasons of awakening, and it gives them strength.

The Bible talks a lot about setting up altars and monuments to remember God's leading in life's journeys. After crossing the Jordan River, Scripture records, "And Joshua said to them, 'Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



now

future

past

Adventists tend to break out in rashes if we hear the words “experience” and its frightening cousin “feelings.”

is, “We have nothing to fear for the future except we forget the way God has led us, and his teaching in our past history” (“General Conference Bulletin,” Jan. 29–30, 1893). Speaking of the last days, White also says, “In order to give such a message as John [the Baptist] gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him lose sight of self” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 332, 333). Adventists tend to break out in rashes if we hear the words “experience” and its frightening cousin “feelings.”

One theological element from Methodism Adventists eschewed was the idea of the “second blessing” — a sort of instant perfection experience after one had decided to follow Jesus. This seeking after a second-blessing sanctification helped lead to the speaking-in-

tongues phenomenon in the early Pentecostal church.

While we don’t follow that model of sanctification, we do believe in a baptism of the Spirit. We believe there is more than a mental assent to the truth. There is a moment, or moments, when we have a deeply nonrational encounter with Christ that creates a knowing of His love in our hearts that is transformative. Jesus even says we are to be reborn (see John 3).

So, do you have a moment you remember? Or moments? When was the last time you had one? Take time to reflect on your conversion and, if it has been too long, make a moment right now and ask Jesus to bless your heart with a fresh conversion to give you strength on your journey with Him.

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor

the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, “What do those stones mean to you?” then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones

shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever” (Josh. 4:5–7). Whether physical monuments, tablets of stone, or feasts and festivals — God leads His people to place markers in life to help them remember.

One of Ellen White’s statements (that has been used almost to the point of cliché among Adventist camp meetings and publications)

FIRST-DEGREE GRACE

Football all-pro Aaron Hernandez had everything to live for, seemingly. His starring Super Bowl performance earned him a \$41 million contract extension. He had it made!

Then weeks later he was charged with (and ultimately convicted of) murder. Life behind bars was not what he signed up for, and he eventually committed suicide in his jail cell.

A brawling hulk with bouts of brutality, Hernandez wasn't famous for being religious. Yet he inked "John 3:16" on his forehead before hanging himself. Not "\$41M" or "Super Bowl Star." His last and only hope was a Scripture acclaiming God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Only God knows whether Hernandez's final confession was sincere. We can only wonder and hope. Like I sometimes did as a law enforcement chaplain.

'FATHER, I HAVE SINNED!'

One night, dispatch summoned me to the station because a young man arrested for murder wanted to see a priest. The detective who walked me down to the holding cell said it was a particularly gruesome killing. As the door closed, leaving me alone with the suspect, a confession of murder gushed out.

"Father, I have sinned! I killed her!"

I was shocked. Nobody had

ever addressed me spiritually as "father." And nobody had ever confessed sins to me — much less murder.

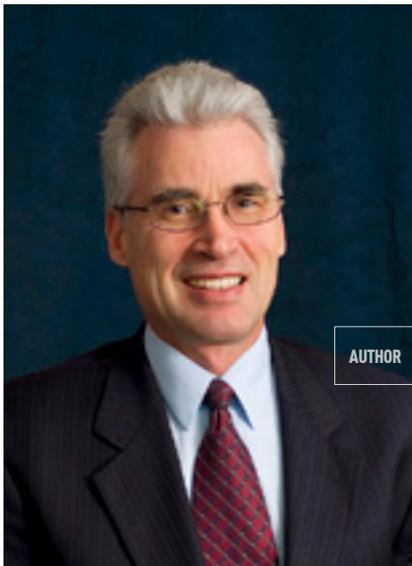
As I wondered how to respond, Brad pleaded, "What should I do now?"

There's only one answer to that question: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). But in this situation, that promise seemed far-fetched. Here was a guy with blood on his hands — visibly! Instant forgiveness didn't seem appropriate.

Only God knows the heart though. Being a minister of the gospel, I must reach out with God's grace. I explained to Brad that his confession exposed two problems related to guilt — first with the law of the land and then with the law of God. Being a chaplain, not an attorney, I couldn't help him deal with charges he might face in court. But we could discuss his guilt before God.

"There's no magic in confessing to a priest," I explained. "Actually, true confession is directed to God, through Jesus. It means we agree with His judgment that those who break His commandments are worthy of death — and you tell me you just murdered somebody.

"But that's where God's grace enters the picture," I continued, concluding with Rom. 10:9: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from



AUTHOR

Martin Weber



Grace is so wonderful it can be hard to take personally. “Maybe God has forgiven me, but I just can’t forgive myself.”

our High Priest in heaven’s sanctuary, confidently representing us: “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us” (Rom. 8:34).

We are not the judge of all the earth, *so we don’t have the right either to forgive ourselves or to condemn ourselves*. That’s God’s job. And He accepts, not rejects all those who come to Him through Jesus: “Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one — for God himself has given us right standing with himself” (Rom. 8:33).

So Father and Son work together for us in heaven’s sanctuary. “There is therefore

now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).

No condemnation in Christ! To believe otherwise is inappropriate. We all know it’s wrong to condemn other people. But did you know *it’s just as wrong to condemn yourself*, when the judge of heaven has forgiven you?

Whether we believe it or not — whether we like it or not — all of us can be saved only through radical grace. That’s true for the thief on the cross, for Brad, for Aaron Hernandez — and even good church folks like you and me.

The gospel is all about grace, A to Z. It’s the only way to get our sorry souls saved.

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

the dead, you will be saved.” Brad reverently repeated after me the sinner’s prayer.

I couldn’t confide in anyone about Brad’s confession (and I couldn’t write about it now had he not pled guilty in court and received a second-degree sentence). He not only confessed but claimed Jesus Christ as Savior. Assuming he’s sincere, he now has clean hands before God. Last I’ve heard, he is following up with a life of faith behind bars.

‘I JUST CAN’T FORGIVE MYSELF’

Grace is so wonderful it can be hard to take personally. “Maybe God has forgiven me, but I just can’t forgive myself.” We may hear this from someone who has sinned notoriously, like Brad. Other times it’s a friend we admire who doesn’t even seem like a sinner. Either way, grace is difficult to grasp for a tender conscience struggling to forgive itself.

But wait. Let’s remember



JUST LIKE JESUS

DEAD?

“

I go to heaven immediately when I die, why stay alive?”

It’s a question I’ve heard numerous times in my ministry. Usually asked by someone who is on hospice care, whose cancer has just been pronounced inoperable or whose family is far away and disinterested. Seldom does this

Unless you’re Jesus, Enoch, Moses or Elijah, when you’re dead you’re dead.

question come from someone who feels the daily love of family and friends.

Several times the question has drawn me back to my academy and college notes on the state of the dead, which reminded me one day of George Storrs, a Methodist lay pastor who was labeled a “heretic” for believing that death is little more than a “peaceful pause before the resurrection.”

Storrs, a stocky man with full gray beard and piercing spirit, first “fell out of grace” by asking a question that seemed heretical and even impudent: “What happens to the wicked when they die?”

People did not like his questions. “He believes that when people die they just die! Just lose their minds and hearts and bodies and then slowly rot

into dust. That’s so crazy!” A whispering campaign was started against him, and it quickly became so loud that Storrs was forced out of the church.

Church-goers had very strong beliefs about death back then, as is obvious from words carved into cemetery markers.

“Gone to Jesus.” “Called home.” “Heaven is now a happier place.”

“He gave this baby to us for just three days and then needed her more than we. So, He called, and she returned to grace the halls of heaven.”

“Seriously, I really want to know what we must believe,” Storrs would say. “If the righteous go directly to the Pearly Gates when they die, then the wicked must go directly to hell. Right? So, the big question is how God knows whether a person is to go up or down, when Jesus Himself said that God does not do the judgment until the end of time.

“And, furthermore, what about that verse in Ecclesiastes where it says, ‘The dead don’t know anything?’”

His questions got the young Adventists to studying and asking their own set of questions.

“Where do the wicked go when they die?”

“What would happen if God took someone straight home to heaven and then in the final judgment found that person didn’t pass the final test?”

“What happens to the souls God takes to heaven when it’s time for them to go back into the grave so He can resurrect them at the Second Coming?”

These were faith-challenging questions in the mid-1800s. Questions that could get you tossed from most churches. Questions that led to biblical answers for the Seventh-day Adventists.

“People stay dead ’til the Second Coming when a blast from God’s bugle will burst them from their graves — to either a life of eternal joy with Jesus or to a second death that will separate them from Jesus forever. I guess that would really be hell!” my well-worn Adventist uncle used to say while thumping his Bible.

My Bible is quite clear. Unless you’re Jesus, Enoch, Moses or Elijah, when you’re dead you’re dead. Your heart stops beating. Your mind stops working. You enter into the time of peaceful pause before the resurrection.

Thanks, Pastor Storrs, for helping us ask the right questions.

*Dick Duerksen, Oregon
Conference assistant to the president
for creative communications*



AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen



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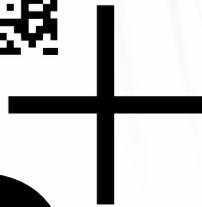
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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

