NEWS

Walter Rea Dies: Famous for Research on Ellen White: One of the most controversial SDA pastors of the past half-century has died, more than 30 years after showing that Ellen White's writings contained far more ideas and text drawn from other published sources than previously recognized....

Noted Pastor William Loveless Is Dead: One of the most influential progressive, large-church pastors of the post-war era passed away this week....

Ice Bucket Challenge Comes to Adventists: While some criticize the denomination for succumbing to the example of "the world," feeling a shower of ice coursing down one's body appears to be a worldly invention with an unimpeachable heavenly pedigree--especially through the fund-raising and awareness it brings to help defeat a dread disease that takes far too many folks, far too young....
Evangelism Campaign Begun in Dublin, Ireland:
Long-planned, coordinated evangelistic outreach to the city of Dublin is featuring Mark Finley through October 4, as the three-week series approaches midstream....

OPINION

Adventist Mission Doctor Speaks Out on the Ebola Crisis and Foreign Aid: The expensive, internationally funded Ebola-control effort in Liberia may be seriously limiting its own effectiveness by failing to tap into local epidemic-control methods and customs, writes Adventist on-site physician James Appel in a controversial piece for AT....

The Day Laborer -- A Modern Parable (devotional):
Debbonnaire Kovacs probes the distress of an eager laborer in the Bible who works through the heat of the day and gets paid the same as those who show up for work just before quitting time....

FEATURES

Love Is Cleaning up After a Wildfire: Recent months have brought a bumper crop of wildfire damage (about six times the average summer's norm, hundreds of houses lost in central Washington) and Church members have seized the opportunity to
help orchardists and other residents dig out from the catastrophic loss of trees, homes, and equipment in the Wenatchee area.

**The Rocks Don't Lie: A Geologist Investigates Noah's Flood** *(book review)*: Columnist Andy Hanson shares a review of a recent nonfiction title he cherishes, which looks at the role played by the biblical flood saga in the development of contemporary geological science.

**POETRY & ARTS**

**Korean Children "Praise God in the Dance" (Psalm 150):** Enjoy this link to an adorable group of Korean children praising God in dance, as commanded by the psalmist.

**Holy Lord, Be Wholly Lord:** The poet pours out in verse her longing to be God's child, in every way.

---

**Contact:** Adventist Today  
PO Box 1135  
Sandy, Oregon 97055-1135  
atoday@atoday.org
Pastor Walter Rea passed away Sabbath morning, August 30, at the age of 92. The memorial service was held Sabbath, September 13, in Patterson, California, a small town near Modesto in the Central Valley farming region where he spent the last years of his life as a grower of cherries, apricots, walnuts and almonds.

Rea is well known for a book he wrote in which he accused Ellen G. White of plagiarism despite her historic role as one of the cofounders of the Adventist movement believed by most of her cohort of early Adventists to exercise the spiritual gift of prophet. His study launched significant research which has changed the understanding of White's writings among Adventists.

Rea was born in 1922 in Minneapolis, but lived much of his life in California. He graduated from Pacific Union College in late 1944 and in January 1945 was hired as a pastor by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. He started the first Adventist church in Lompoc, California, and served as a pastor in Lindsay and Madera before moving to Florida. He was pastor of Kress Memorial Church in Orlando, as well as in Fort Myers and Jacksonville before he returned to southern California where he led congregations in Pomona, Alhambra and Long Beach.

"He had a real reputation for being good with church finances and pulling churches together that had been fragmented," his son, Walter Rea Jr., told the Patterson Irrigator local newspaper. "He was a tough disciplinarian, but he was a tremendous youth pastor. ... He was a very practical religious person, [but] not much a preacher."

Rea "never did really let his love of the ministry die," the newspaper said, although "what devastated dad so much was that he was so passionate about the church," his son was quoted. Rea was asked to resign from denominational employ after 36 years due to the controversy his book created.

For many years Rea was a promoter of the writings of White, compiling three volumes of extracts from her materials; two volumes of Bible biographies from the Old and New Testaments and a volume of material on the Bible books of Daniel and Revelation. All of these were distributed through the denomination's book stores.

He became aware that White used information and language from books by Alfred Edersheim in a number of her books. He began to compare her writings with contemporary sources known to be in her personal library and found many places where she appears to borrow material. As a result, a number of research projects were commissioned by the denomination's General Conference (GC).

The largest of these research efforts was the Life of Christ Research Project by Dr. Fred Veltman, at the time a religion professor at Pacific Union College. It was completed in November 1988 and found far more borrowed
material than expected in one of White's most widely-read books, *The Desire of Ages*. (The entire report is available at the GC online archives.)

At the same time, a study was completed by Vincent L. Ramik specifically of the accusation of "plagiarism." He was an attorney who specialized in copyright law and a Catholic, not an Adventist. He reported that White clearly did not engage in plagiarism. Not all borrowing of material is plagiarism. Most authors use some information or phrasing that they have read from other writers.

About the same time the minutes of the 1919 Bible Conference were found in the denomination's archives and it became obvious that these issues had been discussed by denominational leaders soon after the death of White in 1915. Participants included her son, William C. White, and the president of the GC at the time, A. G. Daniells.

The history made it clear that there have been two views of inspired texts among Adventists, one more literalistic than the other, and the more literalistic view had become dominant since the early 1920s when Christian fundamentalism emerged in America. The studies changed the denomination's official position because the more literalistic, fundamentalist view simply does not account for the facts of the situation and creates problems of the type involved in Rea's accusations.
Noted Pastor William Loveless is Dead

By Adventist Today News Team, September 17, 2014
Corrected September 23

Monday morning (September 15) Dr. William A. Loveless passed away in Loma Linda, California. He was a noted, progressive leader in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination serving as senior pastor of two of the largest Adventist congregations; the 7,000-member University Church in Loma Linda and the 3,000-member Sligo Church on the campus of Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Everywhere he went, Loveless initiated creative, new approaches for the Adventist movement. He started the Student Missionary program in 1959, one of the first inner city ministries (in Washington DC) in the 1960s, the first support groups for pastors while conference president in Pennsylvania in the 1970s and the first program for non-traditional students at an Adventist college in the 1980s. He was gifted at relating the Bible to contemporary life and co-hosted a television ministry in the capital of the United States for a number of years and more recently was part of the team that started the Loma Linda Broadcasting Network (LLBN).

Loveless believed that social justice was a fundamental part of the Adventist message and mission. In 1957 he challenged the church board at Sligo to end a policy refusing membership to people of color. In 1973 he was the first Adventist pastor to ordain a woman as local elder. In the last decade he was among the first to preside over the ordination of a woman as an Adventist pastor.

At the same time, reports Westwind, the alumni journal of Walla Walla University, where Loveless graduated with a degree in theology, there are many things that have been attributed to him which he did not do. "It is not true that Loveless once rode a motorcycle down the center aisle of a church service [and] it is not true that Loveless once levitated during a church workers' meeting."

"He did encourage and challenge an entire generation of progressive, creative leaders among Adventist ministers in North America," stated Monte Sahlin, executive director of the Adventist Today Foundation. "I have lost count of the number of phone calls and Emails that I have received in the past 40 hours from men and women who tell me that Bill, as they know him, made a big difference in their lives, kept them dedicated to the Adventist mission and church." Loveless is remembered for one particular rule that has warmed the hearts of many progressive Adventist leaders: "It is far easier to ask forgiveness than get permission."

"Loveless was an extraordinary influence on this university," Dr. Weymouth Spence, current president of WAU, told the Columbia Union Visitor. "Under his leadership, this university was among the first in the nation to launch an evening program designed to meet the needs of working adults. That program today is our School of Graduate and Professional Studies."
Loveless led small congregations in the American northwest as a young man and then served as a pastor at Sligo Church from 1957 to 1970 (senior pastor starting in 1961), with many of the denomination's top officials among the members. He was senior pastor of the University Church in Loma Linda from 1970 to 1976 and returned to serve another term from 1990 to 2000, a rare occurrence in the Adventist denomination. He was president of the Pennsylvania Conference in 1976-78 and president of WAU in 1978-1990. After retiring in Loma Linda he continued on the faculty of the School of Religion and the School of Dentistry, and conducted a practice as a licensed marriage and family counselor.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Edna Maye Loveless, a professor of English at La Sierra University, and their two daughters. Marti Olson is a pastor's wife and Marilynn Loveless is also a professor at La Sierra University.

A memorial service will be held at the Loma Linda University Church on Sunday, September 28, at 2 p.m. It will be carried live on LLBN. The family has request that no one send flowers. Those who wish should make a contribution to one of Loveless's three favorite ministries: Calexico Mission School, the School of Dentistry at LLU or LLBN.

A video documentary tribute to Loveless can be seen at www.llbn.tv.

_______________________
Share your thoughts about this article:

Log In to Post a Comment. Log In | Register
Ice Bucket Challenge Comes to Adventists

By AT News Team, September 19, 2014

A health charity has achieved worldwide fame on television and social media. The foundation that funds research to find a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) has been challenging well-known figures to be seen having a bucket of ice water dumped over their heads and that pop phenomena has now reached into the Adventist movement.

Pastor Dave Weigley, president of the denomination's Columbia Union Conference in the eastern United States, recently took the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in honor of a classmate from Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, and a former colleague, who both died from ALS, reports Michelle Bernard in The Visitor. Weigley is known for bold leadership, one of the first union conference presidents in the denomination to take steps to extend clergy ordination to women serving as Adventist ministers.

Pastor Rob Vandeman, executive secretary of the union conference, started the event with remembrances of friends who died after battling the disease. Seth Bardu, union conference treasurer, led the crowd of conference presidents and union conference employees in prayer, asking God to remember the many people impacted by the disease and to help researchers find a cure.

Weigley encouraged others to also donate to ALS research and challenged Dr. Weymouth Spence, president of Washington Adventist University, and Pastor Charles Tapp, senior pastor of Sligo Church, the largest congregation in the Columbia Union Conference, to take the challenge. Set an example for Adventist leaders, he told his two colleagues. Both institutions are located in Takoma Park, Maryland, a suburb of Washington DC where the denomination's world headquarters was located until 1989.

Adventists have a strong heritage of concern for the suffering of humanity and the promotion of health, so it is not surprising that this wave of action on behalf of ALS sufferers would gain the attention of Adventist leaders. It could become a major expression of the Adventist message and mission.

Video of the event can be seen at:  http://youtube.com/LZBqtgQ1Z-k

Share your thoughts about this article:

Log In to Post a Comment. Log In | Register
Evangelism Campaign Begun in Dublin, Ireland

From News Releases, September 19, 2014

More than 200 were in attendance on Sunday (September 14) when the City of Hope evangelism campaign had its first public event at the downtown Ballsbridge Hotel featuring noted American Adventist evangelist Mark Finley. The project actually began more than a year ago when church members were asked identify one or more individuals that they might eventually invite.

The invitations were mailed on September 6, about 1,000 personally addressed and signed invitations all together. Finley also prepared a short video message explaining the goal of his three weeks of lectures on the theme "Ancient discoveries reveal the future" with film from archaeological sites in the Middle East. More than 175,000 advertising pieces were sent out.

A crowd the same size has been present all this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Finley will continue four nights a week through Saturday, October 4. The campaign began 18 months ago and has meetings for Adventists with Finley and the team in May, training seminars with local leadership through the summer, a special edition of Focus magazine, a series of "Tough Questions" videos designed for a Dublin audience, and a Youth Impact project during the last week of August.

Standing at the entrance of the Pearse Street Station in Dublin during Thursday morning rush hour, Irish Mission President, Pastor David Neal, is fairly buzzing with excitement. While handing out the Focus magazine to commuters he shared that,

An enthusiastic Dubliner with a broad Irish accent told Finley on the second evening, "I'm not very religious and I don't usually come to meetings like this. I came last night, and I listened. I said to my wife and to my son, 'If there is eternity, we would be foolish not to investigate it.'" He was there with his family again the following evening.

"This is the biggest evangelistic program to ever happen in the Irish Mission," stated Pastor David Neal, president of the Adventist Church in Ireland, as he stood at an entrance to the Pearse Street subway station in Dublin, reported TED News. "Church members are united and excited. We have seen God's guidance in the planning."

"Our aim is not 20, 50, 100 baptisms but to change the culture of the local church to one where they believe and experience that outreach is not just possible but is a reality," Finley stated. "Our goal is to support what the pastors and members will do and what they have already done."

The sessions can be seen via live streaming video on the Web: http://cityofhope.ie/
TED News is the news publication of the Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Share your thoughts about this article:

Log In to Post a Comment. Log In | Register
Dr. Gillian Seton, a young surgeon trained at Loma Linda University, has been at the SDA Cooper Memorial Hospital in Liberia in the midst of the Ebola virus plague ravaging that country since February, 2014.

Dr. James Appel has been asked by Adventist Health International to join her in the overwhelming job of providing care for non-Ebola cases that have been neglected due to other hospital closures by Ebola quarantine. Dr. Appel is a very experienced mission doctor and has written extensively about providing Seventh-day Adventist health care in the Muslim country of Chad since 2004. His blogs about their daily experience caring for patients during the Ebola Crisis are available at www.ahiglobal.org.

After one month in Liberia, working with Dr. Seton and her dedicated Liberian nurses and doctors, Dr. Appel daily triages Ebola patients. The problems of preventing spread of this deadly disease in an impoverished community are a daily reality to this small team of Seventh-day Adventist health care workers. As a massive and expensive foreign aid campaign slowly begins to respond to this crisis, Dr. Appel offers a very insightful analysis of what is wrong and what could be right from the donors and governments belatedly rushing in to “help.” These deeply insightful comments were written by Dr. Appel from Monrovia, Liberia Monday, September 15, 2014. Adventist Today feel his opinions deserve to be considered by all donor organizations, and his article is reproduced here with Dr. Appel’s permission:

I don’t mean to be critical—

by Dr. James Appel

I don’t mean to be critical. I can’t really know what’s going on. I’m just a simple family doctor working in a hospital. I’m not really even taking care of Ebola patients. How could I know why Liberia is losing the fight against Ebola?

I haven’t sat on any NGO (non-governmental organization) committees or listened to the WHO (World Health Organization) discussions or to what the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) has to say. I’m just ignorant.

But I’m going to give my opinion anyway.

Losing a fight

Liberia is losing the fight against Ebola because they are depending on NGOs and an influx of Western money
instead of traditional ways of dealing with epidemics. The first few Ebola epidemics were in remote villages where the villages touched by Ebola were self-quarantined according to ancient traditions of dealing with plagues. No one went in and out, and the surrounding communities brought them food. The caregivers washed themselves and their clothes rapidly and frequently after each contact with the patient, just using simple soap and water. Very few ever got sick, and the disease was controlled in a few months.

Excited

Here in Liberia, everyone is excited about the millions of US dollars being poured in to “fight Ebola,” and everyone wants a piece of the pie. A certain NGO out in rural Liberia quarantined a village, claiming they’d tested and found three cases. They applied for and received US$ 250,000 to fight Ebola in this village. They brought in a few sacks of rice and some chlorine. The villagers mobbed the trucks and carried off the plunder. And, miracle of miracles, not a single person died in the village.

Great effort at treating and controlling Ebola? Or pretending there’s Ebola in order to pocket some easy cash? I’ve never heard of a 0% fatality rate for Ebola, but you make the call.

Dozens of Land Cruisers

NGO’s spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to level earth with heavy equipment over a month in order to build tent cities capable of isolating and treating Ebola, but then not even giving them IV fluids or food, so that the Ebola patients sneak out of the tents and cross the street looking for food.

Dozens if not hundreds of US$70,000 Land Cruisers are taking foreigners around town to hotels, bars, clubs, and fancy guest houses so they can feel comfortable while they fight Ebola, and yet they can’t even collect the dead bodies that could expose so many more!

We’ve had bodies left for up to three days. Others have stayed in the open for up to five days before being collected. Patients are often turned away from the Ebola centers, and some have even refused to take anyone who doesn’t come in an ambulance. How many of the poor in West Point slum can afford an ambulance, even if there were enough available to take them?

Low-Tech Solutions

I propose the following solution. I got the idea from a seasoned MSF doctor named Cameron. (MSF is Médecins Sans Frontières, or Doctors Without Borders.)

There are two reasons people call the Ebola hotline: they have a dead body they suspect of Ebola, or they have a live patient they suspect of Ebola.

If there’s a dead body, the hotline should alert some local drivers with old beat-up pickup trucks, and the first one to the site gets the body. Of course, they will be given full protective gear. If they bring the body in within 3 hours of the call they get US$50; if they bring it in within 6 hours of the call they get US$40; if within 12 hours, US$30; if within 24 hours, US$20; if after 24 hours, US$10. If after 48 hours, US$5. This will motivate people to quickly get the bodies and bring them in to be tested and buried appropriately, with minimal chance for contact and spread.

If it’s a live patient suspected of Ebola, a taxi can be called and for a few dollars take a nurse or lab tech out to the
site in full protective gear. They will draw blood for Ebola testing, take the address and contact info, give the family a box filled with gowns, gloves, masks, rubber boots, bottles of chlorine, antibiotics, anti-malarials, oral rehydration salts and anti-vomiting medications. They will contact the community leaders, who will ensure that the family is not only quarantined in their compound, but also provided with food and water.

**Local economy**

All this could be done for a fraction of the current funds being used, and would be more effective, because the patients would all get the individual care that only a family member can give, including adequate food. It would also be more effective because you’d be using local methods and using the money to invest in the local economy instead of paying the high costs of plane tickets, salaries, living expenses, transportation costs, etc., of foreign aid workers.

**Working alongside**

I’m not saying that there shouldn’t be foreigners involved. I’m just saying that the foreigners should be working alongside the Liberians, helping them to find a solution to the Ebola problem, not trying to impose Western ideas that obviously aren’t working. Foreigners should not be bringing in a lot of money that is spent on things that will just make the Liberians envious and want to share in the spoils of aid money.

Sorry for speaking my mind so frankly, but sometimes I just can’t seem to hold it all in, whether people like it or not.

*(Please like or share this article, especially if you have contacts in the donor community responding to the Ebola crisis. Donations to Adventist Health International to support Dr. Seton and her staff can be made at http://www.ahiglobal.org/main/donate-now.)*

________________________

Join in the discussion:

Log In to Post a Comment. Log In | Register
The trucks know where the hopeful day laborers gather. And the hopeful day laborers know where the trucks will come by. Word passes quickly down the streets of a big city when some new construction company arrives that pays well and treats you as if you might be almost human.

Jake saw the pickup slow near his corner. He had been out of work for months, and trudging the streets asking for the kind of low-skill work he could do didn’t seem to help. Sometimes he couldn’t even land a day or a week of grunt work on a construction site, but it looked like today he might get lucky. And it wasn’t even seven o’clock yet. He hoped it was a big job. He straightened his shoulders and tried to look professional as the guy got out of the truck. Joe reflected you’d have known him for a boss anywhere, but his eyes looked right at you. That was something.

“Can you hammer a nail straight?” the man asked.

“Yes, sir.” (Try not to sound too eager, he reminded himself.)

“Ten hours, $150,” said the boss.

Joe felt his breath catch. “Yes, sir!” Twice minimum, that was rare!

The man gathered up several other guys and they all piled into the pickup bed. Joe worked hard, ignoring heat, sweat, and humidity. He pulled off his shirt before noon and tucked it into his back pocket. The boss gave them breaks, and provided drinks and sandwiches, even! Joe wondered if this company might be hiring for real jobs. Several times over the course of the day, he saw the truck come back with more men.

When quitting time came, he stood in the shade, wiping his grimy face with his grimier shirt. The boss pulled out a roll of bills, and Joe cast a look around. This guy ought to be more careful—no telling what kind of losers were around! But somehow, nobody seemed to want to mess with him. There was something about him that commanded respect. Maybe it was because he respected them.

Joe’s eyes widened when he saw the boss count out $150 to some guys who had only been on the job an hour or so. Man, what kind of a bonus would he get for his ten hours of breaking his back? The boss came down the line, and Joe tried not to watch. People’s money was a private thing. At last his own turn came.

“Twenty, forty, sixty, eighty, one hundred, twenty, forty, and fifty,” said the boss, piling the bills on Joe’s palm.

Joe waited a beat, then looked up. “That’s all?”

“It was our bargain, wasn’t it?”
“Well, yeah, but...you gave those guys the same amount, and they'd only been here an hour! We've been here sweating all day!”

The boss looked at him, his brows wrinkling slightly. “I gave you good pay for good work. And you did good work, too. But it's my money. If I want to be generous with these men who haven't been hired all day, isn't that my business?”

Joe's eyes dropped before the other man's. “Yeah, I guess.” It still didn't seem fair, but he knew one of those men who had come in last had five kids and an alcoholic wife. Maybe...maybe he shouldn't complain. He took his money and turned away. Then he turned back. “Do you have any regular work?”

The boss smiled.
Love is Cleaning up After a Wildfire

http://www.atodayarchive.org/article/2692/features/articles/love-is-cleaning-up-after-a-wildfire

by Lola Mae Worth
(with notes by Debbonnaire Kovacs)
Submitted Sept. 17. 2014

Eastern Washington State, like other arid areas, sees its share of wildfires every year, but this year has been worse than most. According to this article, posted Sept. 12, 2014, it has been six times worse than average.

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/09/12/3566740/washington-wildfires-worse-than-normal/:

The 2014 wildfire season in Washington State is not over, but it has already been one of the most destructive and costly on record, state officials from the Department of Natural Resources said Thursday.

Since the beginning of the season up until the end of August, the DNR said wildfires in Washington had burned 363,000 acres, or 550 square miles of land, destroying homes along the way. That’s about 6 times worse than the average amount of acres burned per year in Washington, state forest officials said. Fighting the fires has been costly, too — the state says it spent $81 million this year, even though its annual budget is only $25 million.

“It’s been a staggering year, and a great challenge,” state forester Aaron Everett said, according to the News Tribune.

In light of the damage, Washington Governor Jay Inslee on Wednesday sent a letter to President Obama asking for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist families who lost their homes. More than 350 homes were impacted by the fires this season, Inslee wrote, a large majority of which were classified as “destroyed.” In contrast, only 55 percent of those homes were insured, and Inslee said state and local governments are not able to adequately help due to “extraordinary budget and revenue shortfalls.”

“The needs of these families will have to be addressed as well as those of the completely uninsured,” the letter reads. “This will stretch the already limited capacity of the state ... delaying recovery for all families. Federal funding will greatly assist in our ability to serve the whole community.”

Though there are no large-scale fires happening in Washington now, Reuters notes that more are expected. “September forecasts indicat[e] low humidity, lightning storms and extremely warm weather,” Reuters’ report reads.
Brewster Seventh-day Adventist church members who had been in the thick of it themselves wanted to do something to help their neighbors who were suffering. *Adventist Today* received this story, written by the Community Center Leader, Lola Mae Worth. She also sent along what might be termed “Before” and “After” photos.
Lending a Helping Hand after Fire Devastation
By Lola Mae Worth

The lives of many were changed by lightning strikes from July 14 through July 17 leading to the Carlton Complex firestorm that swept down the valleys, up to 70 mph, into Pateros and environs, taking out 320 homes plus barns and many outbuildings. We already had a housing shortage in Okanogan County and now many are in tents.

As Community Center Leader for Brewster, I saw the fire above Pateros and said to my neighbors, “With this high wind, it will jump the Methow River,” not knowing that farther north, it had already done so.

The neighbors were fleeing to Chelan [about 27 miles away] by 9:30 p.m. While I was waiting in the Walmart parking lot with neighbors, my daughter, Cindy Cook, called and said, “The fire is on all sides of us and we are trapped.” An hour later she called back and said, “We are alive and our house is standing.” The flames were 60 feet high over her house like a tornado.

Friday, I drove back home past 17 burned houses on my road to see my house standing, but there was a large pine tree on fire. No water – no phone – no cell phone service. My brother, Ed Burns, drove up, took one look up the hill and grabbed his chainsaw and ran up the hill with my son Mark on his heels. They felled the tree and limbs were soon in a pile burning as they cleared the area and saved the house.

Sunday morning, Cindy and I headed into Brewster to open the Community Center and were met with piles of black bags to sort. Lots of bags! We opened the Fellowship Hall in the church and with many volunteers from Wenatchee and Cashmere as well as Brewster, we started to fill tables with clothes. We were open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for a week and going home each night to no power, no water, no phone.

We had our homes but we were in shock and seeing our neighbors suffer their losses was heart-wrenching.
I then heard there was a chainsaw team in Oregon Conference and one starting in Upper
Columbia Conference.

My brother had taken 12 trees off my place and 30 off the neighbor’s property next door; but
there were over 300 black trees, plus brush, around the golf course and many neighbors needed
help.

The young owner of the Alta Lake Golf Course, Parker Barth, had lost his home, clubhouse, cart
building with all the golf carts, and he had been trying to restore our water supply since daylight
on Friday into part of the night for two weeks. He had hardly any time to comfort his two little
boys or his wife and now the neighbors were saying they might not rebuild. The business had
come to a screeching halt. Fifty homes had been destroyed in this one small area and someone
needed a jump start!

As a church, with Pastor Ryan Kilgore, we felt it was time that maybe we could make a
difference. So on August 30 Doug Venn with his wife Maria and Sam Pellecer from Oregon
with their teams started arriving. On August 31, with the help of many local churches 36 people
came to clear blackened trees. Ed Burns had dropped a section of trees ahead to give them a
good place to start while the faller, Calvin Stevenson, from Hayden, Idaho started falling in a
different area.

The yellow shirts of the Disaster Relief workers were soon blackened. Neighbors put on gloves
or brought food to help. The mood changed quickly as each tree fell. On September 1, the crew
was made up of fewer people; then Parker came with his back hoe and another neighbor ran a
dump truck and suddenly things changed even more quickly.

Word got out and cars came by to see what was happening. As the workers’ white teeth shone in
their big smiles with black faces and blackened yellow shirts, there were many saying thank you
or giving a thumbs up for a good job. What a difference we can make in two days with a
positive attitude. Are you prepared for a disaster in your area? I hope you are!
Reviewed by Andy Hanson

Saint Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Leonardo da Vinci, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Copernicus, and Galileo concluded that the biblical story of Noah’s Flood could be supported by evidence and reasoned argument. These stories and many others, old and new, are recounted in detail, along with the scientific evidence accumulated to test them.

*Rocks Don’t Lie* is the best nonfiction book I have read in a decade. In just 257 pages, David Montgomery explains why virtually all geologists and many devout Christians abandoned believing that the flood of Noah sculpted the surface of the Earth and buried the fossils...[He] traces the debates over the antiquity of life on Earth and explains why we can—now more than ever—trust the evidence found in the rocks.

Even though he writes for a general audience, when you have finished the book, you can intelligently discuss the ancient flood story and its attendant historical and scientific controversies with anyone!

Montgomery concludes with these words. “We may argue endlessly about how to interpret the Bible, but the rocks don’t lie. They tell it like it was.”
Korean Children "Praise God in the Dance" (Ps. 150)


by Debbonnaire Kovacs
Submitted Sept. 17, 2014

I thought it was time to share another praise dance. Click on the link to see Korean children praising God at SDA Sahmyook Central Church, Korea. I can’t understand their words (except Hallelujah), but I don’t need to—the love is clear enough! And Jesus knows every word, not to mention every young heart. May God bless and use all that energy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCeCue0k1FU
**Holy Lord, Be Wholly Lord**


By Corienne Hay, 1936-2012  
Submitted by Debbonnaire Kovacs,  
Sept 17, 2014

O Holy Lord, most Holy Lord, You must be wholly Lord of me.  
Where there are corners of my heart that it’s still night to me,  
I want no shadows in my heart, please shine Your Light through me.

O Holy Lord, Most Holy Lord, You must be wholly Lord of me.  
When any sound within my mind drowns out Your whispered will,  
I want no clamor in my mind, please bid it “Peace, be still.”

O Holy Lord, most Holy Lord, You must be wholly Lord of me.  
If You’re not Lord of all, I’ve heard it said,  
Then You’re not Lord at all and this I dread.  
O my Lord, my Holy Lord, You must be wholly Lord of me.  
Oh, please be wholly Lord of me.

If there is ought within my soul that bars You, Lord, at all,  
I want no barriers in my soul, so please now make them fall.  
O Holy Lord, most Holy Lord, You must be wholly Lord of me.  
O Holy Lord, be wholly Lord of me.

*Note from Debbonnaire: I wish you could have heard her sing it!*