Adventist 2011 World Budget
Mission and administrative work outside of North America will take the largest portion of the $160 million 2011 Adventist world budget. The second largest portion will fund operation of the world headquarters building in Silver Springs, Md. While appropriations to the world field increased slightly, two of the 12 receiving world divisions will get less compared to last year. These small adjustments are based on need. “We are budgeting for 2011 in an economy that’s giving us less money than we need, but it’s a balanced budget,” says Juan Prestol, Adventist Church undertreasurer. Read more HERE.

Adventist Medical Center Expands Cardiac Care
Portland, Ore., residents experiencing life-threatening heart attacks will no longer have to be transported to other hospitals. The Northwest Regional Heart Center at AMC has begun open-heart surgeries with a team that includes Thomas Molloy, a highly respected heart surgeon. This added service is in direct response to “a community that wants to receive all their cardiac services under one roof through a facility that is known for quality outcomes,” says Brad Titus, M.D., medical director of NRHC. The facility includes state-of-the-art technology, including new operating rooms and robotic equipment, critical-care nurses, perfusionists and other support staff, including a cardiac case manager. Read more HERE.

Montana School Attracts A-Maze-ing Crowds
What could a struggling church school do to stir up interest in a community that hardly knew it was there? The brainstorm of a young couple associated with the Mountain View Elementary School in Missoula, Mont., brought an intriguing solution — a maze constructed of hay on the school grounds. Earl and Christina Ellingson had the vision, and last fall more than 10,000 people visited the maze. Community members were connected not only with the school, but also some spiritual lessons. Read the full, heartwarming story in the upcoming February GLEANER.

Looking Ahead
January 2011
27: March Ad/Article Deadline
29: WWU Honor Band Festival Concert

February
10–12: Friendship Tournament at WWU
14: Valentine’s Day
21: President’s Day
24: April Ad/Article Deadline

March
3–5: Walla Walla University Days
24: May Ad/Article Deadline

April
1–3: Impact Your World Retreat
21: June Ad/Article Deadline

GLEANER Blogs
- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- MAXimum Perspectives
- Current GLEANER Issue
- Finance
- Current Events
- Tip Sheet
and more. 7Day Wear is a service of AdventSource. Check out the website HERE.

Super Bowl Tract/Outreach Magazine Available for Free
A special “Big Game” issue of Insight magazine is available for public outreach and for sharing at Super Bowl gatherings in homes or churches. It has an emphasis on winning in the game of life and includes an article about Cowboy’s star, Jason Witten. Order free copies for your outreach event by e-mailing Steve Hanson, Review and Herald customer relations director at shanson@rhpa.org. Please include a mailing address and the number of copies you need. Act quickly to receive your order in time. Supplies are limited.

‘My Partner’ in the Candy Business
When he started his candy business he set up an account for “MP” or “My Partner.” Who was this tithe-paying millionaire? Find out who this tithe payer was on Cindy’s Garden Blog.

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Adventist 2011 world budget highlights mission, administrative support

Continuing tradition, the two largest components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's world budget this year will fund appropriations for administrative and mission work outside of North America and fund operation of the world headquarters building.

The denomination's US$159.4 million budget for 2011 continues support of mission work -- about $37.5 million in appropriations to world fields, with an additional $26 million in funding for missionaries and employees to other world regions.

Operating costs for the denomination's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States is limited to 2 percent of world tithe, about $38 million this year. Finance officers say the church typically comes in below that mark by $1 million or $2 million.

"We are budgeting for 2011 in an economy that's giving us less money than we need, but it's a balanced budget," said church Undertreasurer Juan R. Prestol.

While appropriations to the world field increased slightly, two of the 12 receiving world divisions will draw less in appropriations from tithe compared to last year. The Inter-American and South American divisions will receive 13 percent and 7 percent less respectively in tithe appropriations. Most receiving divisions are allocated appropriations from both tithe and non-tithe funds totaling between $1 million and $4 million annually.

Prestol said the trend in Latin America acknowledges the church's "maturity" there, as well as "financial strength and growth."

"This also acknowledges the needs in other places and that a different distribution rate is needed at this time," he said.

Reduced appropriations from those regions will instead be sent to the 10/40 Window, an area of the world from 10 degrees latitude north to 40 degrees latitude north from North Africa to East Asia, where only about 1 percent of the population is Christian.

Other major appropriations from the 2011 world budget include:

- $9.8 million for Loma Linda University
- $5.5 million for Adventist World magazine
- $4.3 million for Andrews University
- $3.5 million for Hope Channel operations
- $2.2 million for the White Estate
- $2.1 million for Adventist World Radio
- $1.4 million for the 2015 General Conference Session (the same amount is saved each year during the five years leading up to Session)

To see a complete copy of the 2011 world budget as an Excel spreadsheet, please send a request to the ANN editor at AdventistNews@gc.adventist.org.
At Adventist Medical Center’s Northwest Regional Heart Center, our team of board certified cardiologists, skilled nurses and experienced staff provide our exceptional care.

We have the latest technology and procedures to identify and treat heart disease, including two cardiac catheterization labs that provides top notch diagnostic capabilities 24-hours a day.

We provide non-invasive procedures which can assess the heart’s condition without the need for surgical procedures. These tests and procedures use special instruments that allow for smaller incisions, quicker recovery, and fewer side effects, all resulting in a better patient experience.

According to the American College of Cardiology, nearly 400,000 patients are admitted to US hospitals with a potentially life threatening heart attack caused by the total blockage of a coronary artery, known as ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). This blockage causes lack of oxygen to the heart muscle, which causes the heart muscle to suffer irreversible damage. Survival depends on several factors, the most important of which is restoring blood flow to the aching heart as quickly as possible. This is achieved by...
mechanically opening the coronary artery with a balloon catheter or by the dissolution of the occluding clot with medications known as clot busters (thrombolytics).

There is well-documented evidence that mechanically opening the blocked artery within 90 minutes of myocardial infarction can limit infarction size or even stop infarction 95-99% of the time.

Adventist Medical Center is an Accredited Chest Pain Center
Millionaire Candy King Tithed

As the candy king’s death was telegraphed from coast to coast, leading newspapers screamed that rich and poor both had lost a friend that day and historians wrote “tears fell from palatial Persian rugs to dusty roads of poverty.”[1]

In 1910 his personal contributions to charities alone totaled $150,000 per year. The New York Times from that same year wrote of the millionaire manufacturer “he always gave the 10 percent.”

“John Huyler never thought of himself as a philanthropist. It is certain he never called himself one. Yet ... all his waking hours, his dominant thought was ‘how can I help my fellowmen?’”[1] (Rev. F. Mason, memorial tribute.)

Huyler was born to a modest Greenwich Village family who lived above their own bakery. At 17 he began working for his father but soon set up his own candy business. “Working on his own to develop an old-fashioned molasses candy, [he] opened his first store in 1876 on 18th Street in New York City. A few years later he opened three additional shops — another in Manhattan, one in Brooklyn and one in Albany.[2]

His confections soon were streaming in profits and Huyler did two things: One, he put his profit directly back into his business. Two, he opened two bank accounts. The first account said “John Huyler,” the second “MP” for “my partner.”[3] God, his silent partner, received at first 10 percent, then 20, then 30, 40 and by his death — half.

Huyler modeled two things, which entrepreneurs today believe gave him success. These he summarized when he said: “I worry about details for my companies which other companies don’t even know exist.” And two, “I just try to take a company where I have it in my mind it should go.”

As “Huyler’s candy had started its rise to national prominence,[2] he began funding charitable causes: kindergartens, gospel programs, industrial classes for the YWCA, Harlem arts and educational foundations, the YMCA, and donating across the board to most modern denominations. Once when overlooking a group of needy children gathered for gospel instruction, Huyler said “here is where the money counts; here we should put our emphasis.”[2] Historians say “he was gripped by duty,” and tears would come to his eyes when he “saw want.”

When he died on October 1, 1910, [at 65] Huyler had 54 stores across America, supplied by his 14 candy factories employing about 2,000 people.”[2] His death bulletin has this inscribed, “In common with all lovers of noble service we offer our tribute to the memory of a devout and useful life.”

Story by Cindy R. Chamerlin, © 2011.

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This entry was posted on Thursday, January 20th, 2011 at 3:50 pm and is filed under Cindy's Garden Blog. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

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Website
Millionaire Candy King Tithed

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Christmas Truce

Monday, December 27th, 2010

“’Twas Christmas in the trenches, where the frost so bitter hung.
The frozen fields of France were still, no Christmas song was sung. [1]” — John McCutcheon

While looking for a Gleaner story I uncovered a most intriguing news piece. A few more search engines and I unearthed PURE treasure. Historians mark a most unique moment in World War I where enemy soldiers stopped the war to celebrate Christmas together on the frontlines in No Man’s Land, the area between the two battling troops.

I began to find war archives, photos and other treasures. Today it is called the historic Christmas Truce of 1914. “Christmas in the Trenches,” later romanticized in the block-buster movie Jeux Noel, lasted the entire Christmas day and on some frontlines up to New Year’s Day wherein British, French and German soldiers stopped killing for a time and in merriment exchanged brandy, letters, pictures from home, sacred rations and chocolate candies with their enemies. In Yuletide, the enemies like giddy-school children played soccer (who won varies on the historian’s country), buried each other’s dead and sang “Stille Nacht.”

“And in two tongues one song filled up that sky,” continues McCutcheon.

And with my own eyes I saw photos including British and German officers in full regalia looking one another directly in the eye and conversing respectfully, goodwill trumping all lines. There are other vintage photos displaying soldiers holding holly branches and using makeshift lights and random branches as Christmas trees, while singing carols together.

“The cannons rested silent, the gas clouds rolled no more,
As Christmas brought us respite from the war,” McCutcheon writes.

Suddenly I was reminded of another truce. In that one, I like to imagine the littlest, most sanguine angel begged: “Please let us go, it will be okay, it’s not like we’re singing on Main Street Bethlehem. We’re just going to sing to a few shepherds – Even if the shepherds tell their story no one is going to believe simple shepherds.”

And I like to think the Father said: “I’m waging a war on sin here. Do you know how putrefying sin is? Remember the sandbox lesson — the little blood-stained innocent sanctuary lamb? Sin has separated our troops. I’ve commenced to trying to save them. But it’s not safe for angels to go down there. They make slaves of one another. They harm their children, hurt their neighbors, and betray their families. They’re evil day and night.”
And then I imagine the littlest angel begging again, “But … you’re already waging the war on sin — you just sent Him …. Please let us go, we’ll make it short. — It’s just a temporary Christmas truce.” And then Gloria in Excelsis Deo Christmas truce was born — a spiritual trove not of Hollywood stardust or Disney magic, but Heaven and Earth meeting in No-Man’s Land — for just a moment.

**Back to War**
And then I read the saddest line about the war. McCutcheon’s poem puts it this way …

> “Soon daylight stole upon us and France was France once more. 
> With sad farewells we each began to settle back to war.”

Some accounts say one side “waved Merry Christmas” on a flag. The other side waved “thank you.” The rifles taken back up, two shots rang in the air, and historians everywhere mark it — Humanity’s Finest MOMENT.

And also with the Christmas angel truce Heaven was Heaven once more. And Earth went back to being Earth. The shepherds wiped the stardust off their eyes. The angels returned to Heaven and the shepherds went about trying to convince their respective villages they really had been privy to an angel choir. And biblical scholars everywhere mark it — Humanity’s Deciding MOMENT.

But for a moment both sang — “*And in two tongues one song filled up that sky.*”

And every cell in our fallible, terrible, sinful, bending selves —

Truly loves and re-loves — that moment.

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*Story by Cindy Chamberlin © Christmas 2010*

© Christmas 2010

**Gleaner managing editor**
**NPUC assistant communication director**

Giving Opened up Scrooge’s Heart

By Catherine Ford, Calgary Herald December 9, 2010

... When Tiny Tim looks longingly into the window display of toys that are so far beyond his reach both physically and financially, all he can do is hope for a miracle. We know the rest of the story. We know the miracle did happen and the original Christmas Grinch, Ebenezer Scrooge, saw the error of his miserly ways. Tiny Tim didn’t die. Scrooge became a man much loved in his world. But even before that, Christmas and its spirit thrived in spite of humbugs. It flourished even in the face of the “squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner,” as Charles Dickens described Scrooge.

In December of 1990, one year before the Calgary Herald started the Christmas Fund, I wrote about the long lineups for food on the streets of Moscow. “Those of us who share a climate with the Russian capital appreciate the exquisite pain of standing in the cold. What must it be like to do so out of necessity?”

It wasn’t the lack of food available to the ordinary people that underscored the want, it was the lack of hard currency. Moscow’s 19th-century farmers’ market on Tsvetnoy Boulevard was bursting with fresh food of every variety. I know. I walked through it, marvelling at the quality and the amount available, so unlike the state stores with their nearly empty, grimy shelves. There was none of that “mystery meat” as we dubbed dinner at our hotel; no boiled-to-extinction vegetables. Just stall after stall of marketable goods, from food to flowers, coffee to chickens, much like the Calgary Farmers’ Market, only in Russian with Cyrillic signs.

But like Tiny Tim, whose parents couldn’t afford store-bought toys, the food was priced out of the reach of the ordinary Russian citizen who was paid in rubles. One kilo of beef was 15 rubles at a time when a Moscow apartment rented for 10 rubles a month and a doctor earned 200.

There are such people in our midst, those for whom hard times are a reality. Today can be seen as a mirror reflection of 1990 — the beginning of the decade that followed the greedy 1980s, a return to reality, a time when few of us were optimistic in the face of a recession.

We’re human, so we forget. When the money rolls in again, a recession becomes just another minor point in our city’s history.

Every recession is different, and so is this one. It’s similar to Leo Tolstoy’s truism which opens his novel, Anna Karenina. ... He writes: “Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way,” he is reminding us, in a fashion, that happiness and good times are shared experiences, while unhappiness and recession are individualized.

Christmas really isn’t about how much money one spends, but what one does with it. It’s about remembering the best present one can give herself is the small part each of us plays in ensuring a measure of happiness for others.

This is the best news of all: That by giving to others, we make ourselves happy.

At the very end of A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens writes about Scrooge: “He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town or borough.”
And each year at Christmas, I cherish Scrooge’s sentiment: “His own heart laughed; and that was quite enough for him.”

Catherine Ford is a retired Herald columnist and writes a weekly opinion. © Copyright (c) The Calgary Herald.

Heritage Singers’ Miracle Stories

Thursday, November 18th, 2010

During the early years, the Heritage Singers did not have a place to call home. Up to this point they had been using their business manager’s home for their office and living in motels and the bus. Max knew they needed a place for offices and their annual music camp. He heard about a 103-acre parcel of land in Placerville, Calif. It was more than they needed but the land encompassed beautiful trees and was on top of a mountain – away from the traffic and noise. It seemed like the perfect spot for their ministry to call home.

“The property had been for sale for 20 years. However, each time a prospective buyer would come to look at the land the owner would ask what they planned to do with the property. If they answered ‘we want to cut the trees down,’ he told them, ‘it’s not for sale.’

“When Max told the landowner about the group and its ministry, he also stated he wanted to keep the property just the way it was. The man offered to sell it for $20,000 down. It was a fantastic price – but Max and Lucy knew they didn’t have that much money.

“After much prayer, they really felt this was where God wanted them to have their headquarters. So they told Mr. Keller they really wanted the place but $10,000 was all they had to put down. Upon hearing this, Keller said ‘NO Problem, I’ll even carry the papers myself at 6 percent interest’. This was yet another answer to their long list of prayers and remains the Heritage Ranch today.

“It probably didn’t hurt the sale that Max told Keller he came from a cattle ranch in Idaho and the property in Placerville had been a working cattle ranch. God is good.”1


Old Blue

Thursday, November 4th, 2010

The Heritage Singers’ bus story as condensed from Beyond Our Dreams by Max and Lucy Mace, as adapted and edited by Cindy R. Chamberlin.
With the date of the first concert quickly approaching, the group still had to find transportation. Max heard the Greyhound Bus Company sometimes offered retired buses at a discount to non-profit groups. He wrote a letter stating their needs. However, a week before the concert the group still had no vehicle. Members got together once more to pray about the situation. No sooner had they said “amen” when the phone rang. It was the Greyhound Company asking them to come select a bus. Two original group members, Jerry Leiske and Bruce Twing arrived at the lot feeling suddenly overwhelmed. How in the world would they choose the right one? Most of the buses looked really bad. Suddenly they heard a voice and were startled to see a man approaching. “What are you looking for?” the man asked.

“We are trying to find a bus with a reliable engine that would be good for road trips for our Christian-music group,” they answered.

The man smiled and replied “Well, I know a lot about buses; I’ll help you.”

They looked at several buses. One was especially ugly. Its Greyhound logo had been sanded off and the interior was yellow-stained and reeking with years of cigarette smoke and stench. However, with a little more checking, the men realized it had lower mileage than the others. “This is the bus you should have. The engine has just been rebuilt, and it is mechanically sound,” the stranger said.

Jerry and Bruce looked skeptical — “Are you sure?” they asked him.

“Yes, this is the one you should have,” he assured them.

The two parked the bus and went inside the office to fill out the paperwork. “You’ve really made a good choice,” the Greyhound representative said while they signed the papers. “How did you happen to choose this particular bus?”

“Well there was a gentleman helping us,” answered Jerry. “He said he knew a lot about buses.”

The Greyhound representative got a strange look on his face, “Nobody is allowed on this lot except our security guards, and none of them are here today,” he said. Then he paused, leaned back in his chair, and looked at them skeptically. “No one could have possibly been out there other than the two of you.” Mystified, he sent someone out to the lot to look for the man, but the man had disappeared.

Heritage founders are convinced God sent an angel that day.

Posted in Cindy's Garden Blog | No Comments »

**Finishing the Cabin**

Thursday, October 28th, 2010

This is a story from Sonia Brock, GLEANER reader, who built her own cabin in Alaska.

Early on, as I was finishing my cabin, I ran out of money. It was early September and it was beginning to get cold at night. I hadn't yet received any checks from going back to my bus driving job and had one final unemployment check coming on Thursday. I knew it would be enough to buy insulation, (if I kept my tithe money instead of returning it as God has directed). I needed to finish up the last of the ceiling and then could close it in for winter… I really NEEDED the insulation. I remember struggling back and forth with the issue… I knew it was God's money, but surely He didn't want me to freeze. I had money for one, but not both options.

Finally, on Friday afternoon, I decided I had to honor God and do what He said, so I put the tithe money in an envelope, took it to church on Sabbath and dropped it in the offering plate. It was then too late; the money was where it SHOULD be.
On Monday, I went to the post office… and in my box was a money order… for MORE than the amount I needed for the insulation AND what the tithe amount had been. Of course, it had been sent several days before I even got the small unemployment check and the battle in my heart had taken place.

The Power of Ten

Thursday, October 21st, 2010

This story is used by permission and comes from Pete Saunders, Bermuda Conference associate communication director:

“… My son, Dakari, has cerebral palsy. This was due to a lack of oxygen during childbirth. The only way to deal with cerebral palsy and to help him learn to walk and communicate is through constant therapy (i.e. physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, etcetera). He travels annually to Children’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, for checkups and treatment. In 2009, he received Botox injections to aid him in walking and developing his motor skills. He was also evaluated by specialists at the augmentative communication program. They concluded he would benefit significantly from having a communication device. Even though he is three years old, he still communicates by pointing and mainly babbling. The communication device would enable him to communicate more effectively in various social settings, including school and church. During the time we were trying to figure out how to take care of this need for Dakari, I accidentally submitted my tithes (through online banking) twice on two separate occasions.

“The discussion with Annesa, my wife, went something like this:

- Pete: ‘I need to talk with the treasurer about getting this money back. We really need it.’
- Annesa: ‘Hmmm. I know we need it, but we have survived without it. Just let it stay.’
- Pete: (Becoming uneasy and not believing my ears,) ‘Are you sure?’
- ‘Yes. I mean, the Lord has blessed us so much, this is a little way of showing our appreciation.’
- Pete: (Reluctantly …) ‘Okay And then about two weeks later …
- ‘Sweetie, how do you feel about us doubling what we are currently giving the Lord?’
- Pete: ‘What?’
- ‘Think about it. When we accidentally [doubled it], we survived, and almost didn’t miss it.’
- Pete: ‘But sweetie, we need the money for all the stuff we have to get for Dakari.’
- ‘I know, but the Lord is still blessing us.’
- Pete: (Less reluctantly this time,) ‘Okay. We’ll do it.’
- ‘Are you sure? Don’t say yes if you’re going to do it grudgingly. It has to come from the heart.’
- Pete: ‘I’m sure. As you say, the Lord has done a lot for us, so why not.’

“My wife is a very wise and virtuous woman. I (almost) hate to admit this but at least 90 percent of the times when I have gone against something she said, we’ve ended up losing money or worse. Thankfully, now in our fifth year of marriage, I have learned to listen to and go along with my wife (most of the times). It is called women’s intuition. I am glad this was one of the times I went along with her because God literally threw open the floodgates of heaven and poured out so much blessing that we did not have room enough for it. Almost immediately after our decision to double the amount we return to the Lord, I was compelled to check an investment account. I knew we had no money in it because of how poorly that investment did. When I saw the balance of the account, I was stunned. Not only was it much more than I had expected, but the balance was 10 times what our double tithing was going to be.
“The following day, two work colleagues who are close friends of mine promised to do whatever they could to help with getting the device for my son. One immediately started baking little goodies and selling them. Later that week, they opened an account called Dakari’s Fund and deposited the proceeds from the bake sales. My wife and I didn’t expect this outpouring of blessings from the Lord. Throughout the week, the investment account kept growing. We eventually withdrew the money and paid our tithe—the largest tithe we have ever paid. During that same week, I received a call from the minister of music for my church who informed me that his department would be hosting a concert with proceeds going toward my son’s device.

“On the Thursday of that week, we decided to fast and thank the Lord for His blessings toward us. Amazingly, that same day my boss approached me and shared that his boss was proposing doing something more significant for my son and wanted to know if I was okay with it. Imagine the thoughts and questions swirling around in my head. How much more, Lord? Are You trying to teach us something? The next day, I was surprised by my work colleagues with a check for my son’s device. Some very special coworkers solicited support on his behalf. The check in itself was a big deal but not the biggest.

“My head, heart, in fact, my entire body started to hurt and my emotions went on a roller coaster ride when I realized that the amount of the check I received from my work colleagues was 10 times the tithe we paid from the investment account. The tears wouldn’t stop flowing. I drove home in tears asking the Lord why. Are you for real, God? Why are you doing this amazing thing for my family? I certainly do not deserve this. Why? I was so confused! I really could not believe what had transpired in literally less than two weeks. When my wife got home and I shared with her all that transpired, she, too, was overcome with emotions. We tried to make sense of it all. These are the 10 things we have concluded:

“Men — listen to your wives (especially if she is a godly woman).

1. God owns everything!
2. God doesn’t need our money or anything else, for that matter.
3. Because God owns everything, giving to Him or to others shows that we acknowledge His supremacy.
4. Believe God — every single word.
5. Give God thanks for everything! This includes things we don’t usually consider as blessings.
6. Pass the blessings along. Find a way to bless others. In fact, go out of your way to bless somebody else.
7. The Bermudian community [and probably where you live] is filled with caring individuals who will not hesitate to help those in need.
8. God still performs miracles.
9. It pays to obey God.

“We are so thankful for the assistance and support we have received in providing our son with an opportunity to experience what so many of us take for granted, the ability to communicate. God’s blessings toward all of us are innumerable. Daily, moment by moment, we receive physical and spiritual blessings. I encourage you to count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what God has done. Be a part of that 10 percent of those who thank God for all the mercies and kindness He has shown.”
How Far Can One Penny Go?

Thursday, October 7th, 2010

Brian Kluth, radio spt producer, shares another true story:

“A little girl loved the Lord and longed to share the message of Christ to those on the mission field. She contributed a penny to a missionary to help in the work of evangelizing the people of Burma. The missionary was so touched by the little girl’s response that he decided to do the most he could with that little penny. After careful thought, he bought a gospel tract and personally gave it to a young chieflain.

“The chieflain would not admit that he could not read, yet he burned with a desire to know the contents of the leaflet. He traveled 250 miles to find someone who would read it to him. After hearing the gospel message, it was not long after that this young chief made a profession of faith in Christ. Returning to his people, he told them what the Lord had done for him. Later, he invited missionaries to come and share Jesus with the village. Many tribesmen accepted the good news and were converted. All this and probably more resulted from one dedicated penny given in Christ’s name by a little girl who gave from her heart.”

Story by:


www.GiveWithJoy.org

The Expansion Miracle Plan

Thursday, September 30th, 2010

(Here’s a nice story used from another blog, citing sources at the bottom:)

“Tithing is my best retirement plan, my biggest insurance policy and my most significant alchemy. I LOVE to tithe! It represents a cosmic promise from God to me.

“With every paycheck or chunk of income I receive, I calculate and rejoice in the tithe amount that it represents (even if it is just ten cents or one dollar).

“Then I quickly contribute the tithe, even before depositing the income or before spending it on anything. (I have a jar for my smaller coin tithes [and] or write checks for my bigger tithes.) The magic is the remaining income, after the tithe, seems to miraculously expand to cover all my needs, no matter how great or small, how planned or unexpected the expense. It is truly astounding how this expansion miracle takes place.

“I keep very good records of my income and expenses so that I can see exactly where my money chi is coming and going at all times. There is no explanation other than the miracle of the tithe to explain the expansion phenomena. The income simply does expand to cover every expense that comes my way, even the occasional pricey car repair, dentist appointment or the escalating cost of gas for my commute.
“The consistency of this expansion miracle intrigued me and led to conscious experimentation with the tithing alchemy in an attempt to better understand the science and law behind it. One thing I’ve learned for sure is that the expansion miracle does not work if I pay my bills first and then see if I have enough left over to tithe. I’ve tried this with disastrous results! There is something significant about the law of giving my 10 percent first, then watching to see how God will cover everything else… It’s fun to watch and observe the miracle unfold.

“… This alchemy has been so dependable for me for so many years, I now get to be just like a lily in the field, toiling … and wanting not. If I slip into moments of uncertainty or doubt, I remember that I tithed and all sense of lack and fear dissolves…”

Source:

www.iamalchemy.org

A Single Mom’s Grocery Money

Thursday, September 16th, 2010

Here’s a story borrowed with permission by Brian Kluth, radio producer:

“Nancy was a single mother with young children. Her ex-husband sent her only enough child support for grocery money each week—but it was so small it couldn’t feed one person, much less her family of four.

“However, Nancy felt convicted to begin giving to God from her little bit of grocery money and trust Him to provide. Shortly after this decision, she got a job with a cookbook company. The company paid Nancy to go grocery shopping and prepare meals so they could take photographs for their cookbooks. After a photo shoot Nancy was able to keep the food she purchased and prepared and take back to her children.”

Nancy learned to give and in the process got paid to prepare food for her own family — now that’s a God thing.


Posted in Cindy's Garden Blog | 16 Comments »
Oregon Conference Constituency Session  
Portland, Oregon

*Powered to Serve: Members in Ministry* was the theme of the Oregon Conference Regular Constituency Meeting held on September 20, 2009. The meeting began with 489 duly elected delegates present. This was the first time that Oregon has used electronic voting devices which made voting very efficient and precise. The president report included both a look back at the Lord’s leading in the past four years as well as a look forward to the goals and objectives for the next four years.

All of the recommendations from the Nominating Committee were approved with large majorities. Those elected were: Al Reimche, President; Dave Allen, Vice-president for Administration; Jon Corder, Vice-president for Finance; and John Gatchet, Vice-president for Education.

The constituency voted some major restructuring items that had been recommended by the Constitution and By-laws Committee. The conference has been functioning as an unincorporated association, but after the vote on September 20 it has become a Religious Not-for-Profit Corporation. In addition it was recommended that the various functions of the church operate in a multi-corporation structure. So all of the assets will not be in one corporation and hopefully this structure will provide limits on potential liability claims.

Sincere gratitude was expressed for the generosity of the Oregon Conference church members who provided over 138 million dollars of tithe over the past four years. However, reflecting the difficult financial environment, tithe income decreased in 2008 and continues to do so in 2009. This is necessitating adjustments to general expenses and personnel.

The electronic voting devices made it possible to do some polling of the delegates on all sorts of topics related to the ministries of the Oregon Conference. It was interesting and helpful to see the tabulations on peoples perceptions of their church.
The Adventist Health Central Valley Network in California gave a report on their project to brand every aspect of their operation as “Adventist”. Sometimes we hear discussions suggesting that too closely identifying with the Adventist Church might be a negative. In their research they discovered that 70% had heard of “Adventist Health” and 72% said a religious affiliation would make no difference in the selection of a hospital and 22% said they would be more likely to use a hospital with a religious affiliation. So they decided to clearly identify all of their hospitals, rural clinics, and other service lines as “Adventist Health.”

September 14, 2009

Adventist Health Membership Committee
Portland, Oregon

The responsibility of the Membership Committee is to hear reports on Finances, Quality, and Mission success of the Adventist hospitals and other related ministries on the West coast. This year the meeting was held at Adventist Medical Center in Portland so that members of the committee could tour the new Pavilion addition and parking facility. The Pavilion houses all cardiac care functions and the emergency department. The Membership Committee is also the body who elects the members of the Adventist Health Board of Directors.

The report from Project IntelliCare was particularly interesting. This project is computerizing all functions of the Health System to a paperless electronic system. These amazing statistics were reported even though the project has not been totally implemented yet: Over 10 terabytes of patient information is available today. Over 3,600 physicians and employees are using the system right now. Over 7,000 individuals will use the system each day. Over 100,000 patient charts will be accessed each day. Over 1.6 million unique transactions will be generated each day. And the user’s average transaction response time=0.98 seconds.

The ingredients of Quality are S.T.E.E.P. Safe, Timely, Effective, Efficient, and Patient-Centered. The hospital system carefully monitors quality and safety measures to assure patients of superior outcomes when they are treated at Adventist Health facilities.

Also was shown a recently produced DVD which encourages physicians and other health care givers to be intentional about considering the spiritual aspects of healing. It very effectively communicates how important the spiritual aspect is in patients recovery which, of course, is very much in line with the Adventist concepts of whole person care. Allison Field a physician at Walla Walla General Hospital gave an in- person testimony of how she is able to bless patients through her concern for their spiritual faith journey.

September 12, 2009

Maranatha International Convention
Rolling Hills Community Church, Tualitin, Oregon

Maranatha is an organization of Seventh-day Adventist lay persons who are interested in providing church and school buildings for Adventist congregations around the world. They hold almost continuous mission trips in the US and abroad to help with these building projects. Currently they are able to construct a “One Day” church in just 24 hours for a donation of $1,500. They have tens of thousands of requests for these simple but functional buildings. Congregations are grateful to have a roof over their heads especially during times of bad weather.

Many individuals told compelling stories and Pastor Jan Paulsen, President of the Seventh-day Adventist World
Church spoke for the worship service and special guest Steve Green provided music throughout the week-end.

August 30, 2009

Oregon Conference Nominating Committee
Gladstone, Oregon

The nominating committee which was elected on August 9 met to make recommendations to the Oregon Conference Constituency Session. These are the individuals nominated:

- Al Reimche  President
- Dave Allen  Vice-president for Administration
- Jon Corder  Vice-president for Finance
- John Gatchet  Vice-president for Education

Nominations for Members of the Executive Committee are: Dale Bryson, Ann Campbell, Dale Cardwell, Derrick Foxworth, Tanya Huether, Corleen Johnson, Vicki Koger, Larry Lewis, Sanford Maddox, David McCoy, David Merino, Calvin Miller, Lorraine Miller, David Paczka, Lucas Porter, Larry Reineke, Tom Russell, Britt Spaulding, Kathy Westermeyer, Rory Wold.


August 28, 2009

Lyle Albrecht Retirement Dinner
Boise, Idaho

Lyle Albrecht has been a full time evangelist for the North Pacific Union for the past ten years. He has held meetings all over the Northwest and left a large harvest of souls wherever he has gone. He recently announced his official retirement, however, he will continue holding series of meetings perhaps on a bit more relaxed schedule. The Albrecht’s have spent their entire ministry in full time evangelistic work. He has become widely known throughout North America and beyond also through his presence on 3ABN television. The retirement dinner was attended by the Ministerial Directors and Evangelism Coordinators from our 6 NPUC conferences, NPUC administration, his colleague evangelists, and some of the individuals who came to know Jesus through his ministry. Seems likely that Lyle’s crown will have three or more tiers in order to accommodate all the stars.

August 26, 2009

Lyle Albrecht has been a full time evangelist for the North Pacific Union for the past ten years. He has held meetings all over the Northwest and left a large harvest of souls wherever he has gone. He recently announced his official retirement, however, he will continue holding series of meetings perhaps on a bit more relaxed schedule. The Albrecht’s have spent their entire ministry in full time evangelistic work. He has become widely known throughout North America and beyond also through his presence on 3ABN television. The retirement dinner was attended by the Ministerial Directors and Evangelism Coordinators from our 6 NPUC conferences, NPUC administration, his colleague evangelists, and some of the individuals who came to know Jesus through his ministry. Seems likely that Lyle’s crown will have three or more tiers in order to accommodate all the stars.

August 26, 2009
North Pacific Union Executive Committee
Ridgefield, Washington

The devotional for our meeting was a report from Gary Parks and Louis Wildman on the recent mission trip/concert tour of the Oregon Men’s Chorus to Romania. The report included DVD segments of some of the singing in exceptionally inspiring locations. The chorus was joined by more than 100 Romanian Adventist men which created a powerful group of male voices all singing to the glory of God.

Items on the agenda included audit and salary reviews for the 2008 financial year. Also significant time was focused on a mid-term review of the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan. The committee voted to have the 2011 NPUC Constituency Session on the campus of Walla Walla University. The North Pacific Union Conference has been allocated 21 delegates to attend the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia next summer. The individuals that have been recommended to the North American Division to be voted at the Year-End Meeting in November are 6 Conference Presidents: Ken Crawford from Alaska; Robert Folkenberg, Jr. from Upper Columbia; John Freedman from Washington; John Loor, Jr. from Montana; Stephen McPherson from Idaho; and Al Reimche from Oregon. 3 NPUC Officers: Max Torkelsen, President; Bryce Pascoe, Secretary; and Mark Remboldt, Treasurer. 6 NPUC Laypersons: Kami Borg (WA), Judy Fowler (MT), Kathy Hernandez (OR), Ruth Farnsworth (AL), Conrad Thomas (UCC), and Andre Wang (OR). 6 Non-Administrative Employees: Colin Dunbar (UCC), Ervin Furne (ID), Bonnie Bowman (ID), Gary Parks (OR), Bill Roberts (WA), and Alvaro Sauza (MT). In addition request has been made for an additional 4 special non-voting guest slots. Ramon Canals, Lanny Hurlbert, Alphonso McCarthy, and John McVay.

Posted in MAXimum Perspectives | No Comments »

August 25, 2009

Wednesday, October 7th, 2009

NPUC President’s Council
Ridgefield, Washington

We had a discussion about our concerns that again this year there is an overall decline in enrollments in our Adventist schools. We reviewed the recommendations of the NPUC Education Summit and requested an update on the implementation of that report.

We discussed and voted a recommendation on NPUC delegates to the General Conference Session next summer in Atlanta. It is more complex than it might seem. We were able to come up with a list which meets the requirements of the GC Constitution, the diversity of the North American Division, and the membership of the NPUC. We also chose to give priority to individuals who have served on the NPUC Executive Committee since they have a greater exposure and understanding of how the church organization functions.

Also the President’s Council voted to recommend that the NPUC 2011 Constituency Session held on the campus of Walla Walla University on September 11, 2011. Ordinations were approved for Ivan Cruz from the Oregon Conference and for Jeff Crain and Sid Hardy from the Upper Columbia Conference. An Ad Hoc Planning Committee was established to study details of how to implement a Souls Northwest training program for Bible workers, Magabook leadership, and personal witnessing.

Posted in MAXimum Perspectives | No Comments »

August 24, 2009

Wednesday, October 7th, 2009

Walla Walla University Board of Trustees
Ridgefield, Washington
The devotional time was provided by David Sandvik who was interviewed by Dr. McVay. David and his wife Brittany are planning to accept an Adventist Frontier Missions assignment in Northern India to establish Adventist work with an unentered people group. It was inspiring to listen to the unselfish idealism of this young man.

This meeting included a review of the Board Self-evaluation. One of the suggestions that emerged from this process was to intentionally shift more time and attention of the Board in the direction of long-range strategic planning and a bit less on reporting. We took a segment of time to brainstorm in small groups, ideas for accomplishing the 2010-2013 Strategic Initiatives. We also received a report on the NWCCU Focused Interim Evaluation Report. This is an important part of the accreditation process. We voted to add the title Public Information Officer to the portfolio of the Vice-president for Marketing and Enrollment Services.

The president of the University and the chair of the Biological Sciences Department provided statements which affirmed the fact that Walla Walla University is faithful in its teaching of the Biblical account of Creation. These statements will be published in the October issue of the NPUC Gleaner.

August 21, 2009

Grand Opening, new building at Columbia Adventist Academy
Battle Ground, Washington

Just in time for the start of a new school year the ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted for a beautiful new administration/classroom building at Columbia Adventist Academy. The mayor of Battle Ground gave the address and acknowledged the valuable contribution of the school and the church to the community. He was very complimentary in his remarks. The event was attended by students, parents, faculty, and constituents of the academy. Matthew Butte is the current principal.
Prison Ministries: Christmas Dinner for Convicts

Monday, November 23rd, 2009

The December 2009 issue of the GLEANER features an eye-opening look at prison ministries. Who is engaging in prison ministries? Who are they ministering to? What is the effect of their ministry. These questions and more are answered in the feature article.

But what say you? We want to hear your accounts of prison ministries. How has this ministry touched your life? Have you participated in prison ministries. Share your thoughts and comments and watch for them to appear in an upcoming issue of the GLEANER.

Posted in Current Gleaner Issue | 2 Comments »

NOVEMBER 2009: Courage to Stand

Monday, October 19th, 2009

The November 2009 Gleaner features a photo spread from the 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee, in Oshkosh, Wis. Our editors struggled mightily to capture the spirit of this event in just four pages. If you want to take a closer look at camporee check out additional images (and add your own) in the following Flickr groups:

- NPUC Adventists
- Pathfinder Camporee 2009
If you were at camporee, we want to hear from you. What were a couple of your favorite events/experiences? How did you get to camporee? Who was the most unique person you met? Share your memories and stories by adding a comment.

Tags: camporee, oshkosh, pathfinders
Posted in Current Gleaner Issue | 3 Comments »

**October 2009: Sacred Work**

Thursday, September 24th, 2009

The October 2009 Gleaner issue highlights the sacred work of Adventist Health. This feature shares a collection of stories that demonstrate ways God works in and through Adventist Health and its employees.

These stories are just a few samples. Perhaps you have your own experience of Sacred Work. If so we would love for you to share that experience with us by adding a comment.

Tags: Adventist Health, Feature
Posted in Current Gleaner Issue | No Comments »

**September 2009, Circles of Light**

Monday, August 31st, 2009

The September 2009, GLEANER feature “Circles of Light” highlights the mission and ministry of Adventist broadcasting outlets throughout the Northwest. The feature highlights a few examples of how these media ministries make a personal impact on the lives of those tuning in. But these are just a few examples. We want to hear from you.

Has Adventist radio or television made a difference in your life or the life of someone you know? Take a moment to share your story with us by adding a comment.

Posted in Current Gleaner Issue | No Comments »

**More Than Music**

Wednesday, July 22nd, 2009

The August 2009 GLEANER feature highlights the story of a unique collaboration between the Oregon and Romanian Adventist Men’s Choruses. By all accounts this partnership was a tremendous blessing and a faith building experience.

Have you had a *More Than Music* experience? Have you been part of a music group that was able to participate in a unique ministry? Has a certain group, song or performance significantly affected your faith? Share your stories of musical blessing here.

Tags: Feature, Music, Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus, Romania
Posted in Current Gleaner Issue | No Comments »
The July, 2009, issue of the Gleaner considers the value of Adventist education. Often when this topic comes up the Adventist portion is given priority over the education portion. In other words, the spiritual emphasis of the education is seen as more important than the three R’s. After all, students can get an education in any school, but the can only get

But the CognitiveGenesis study is revealing the value of the education part of Adventist education. Results are showing that, the longer students attend an Adventist school (that’s any Adventist school mind you… big, small, urban, rural… across the board), the better they perform compared to their academic peers.

So what has your experience been? Was there a particular teacher that prepared you for both academic and spiritual excellence? Do you remember a specific instance where the spiritual aspect of an Adventist school contributed to your success in the classroom? Like Daniel and his friends in Babylon, has putting Godly things above earthly things lead to greater success in both? How has Adventist education made you the person you are today?
Finance

Tuesday, October 20th, 2009

Gary’s definition of DEBT: “The commitment of future earnings to purchase consumable and non-consumable products that do not have collateral value”. A car/truck has collateral value is it a debt or not? The definition would classify the car/truck as a debt if the value of the vehicle is less than the amount owed. The amount of debt would be the difference.

Posted in Finance | No Comments »

Monday, October 12th, 2009

The road to financial security is following the following principle, “Those who like everything they have are happier than those who try to have everything they like”. The council this phrase provides has saved me many times when I wanted more than I could afford. Try practicing this whenever you think you really need this or that! Tomorrow I will share my definition of DEBT. Gary

Posted in Finance | No Comments »

Purchasing Toys

Thursday, August 20th, 2009

After two years a bright shinny new carbonlite Sea Kayak is resting in my garage. This purchase is a joy as Luke 14:28 was the blueprint. The area of major purchases for many families can be a make or break financial decisions. Many make purchasing decisions on present desires rather than long-term financial security.

Posted in Finance | No Comments »

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Current Events

Jan Paulsen Turns 75

Sunday, January 10th, 2010

Seventh-day Adventist world church president, Jan Paulsen, celebrated his 75th birthday this past Tuesday. Paulsen has spent nearly a decade at the helm of our 16-million member global Protestant church. Questions abound ... will he accept another term at this year’s General Conference session in Atlanta? Or this year mark the “changing of the guard?” Many have appreciated Paulsen’s academic, pragmatic, firm-yet-willing-to-listen leadership style. But, with membership growing by leaps and bounds around the world, there are many other concerns and pressures that will weigh heavily on this year’s election process. Who will it be? Paulsen, or someone else? Will the leadership style change? Will our church’s leadership have a new and different mandate or direction after Atlanta? Is God really in control? What do you think?

Tags: GC session, leadership, Paulsen
Posted in Current Events | No Comments »

Youth Baptismal Sabbath: Dec. 5, 2009

Tuesday, November 24th, 2009

Prepare Your Youth for Baptism!

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” —Acts 22:16 NKJV

We set dates for weddings, graduations, sporting events and special times with a loved one. So why not set one for youth baptisms? When we set a date for baptism we show that we realize it is an important step in walking with Jesus and we are more likely to give serious attention to preparing for this special event.

In the North Pacific Union, the first Sabbaths in May and December are “Youth Baptismal Sabbath.” Why have two baptismal dates in a year? By having two baptismal dates a year there will be many more who are baptized. When a person is baptized they usually think of friends they want to see make the same decision. If there is another baptism already scheduled within the next six months they are often more focused in their outreach efforts. At many baptismal services some watching make a decision for baptism and need to be invited to prepare to be baptized within the next six months or sooner. Some people are ripe for making a decision for baptism now that weren’t six months ago.

As a spiritual leader of young people you have an incredible privilege and responsibility. You can help the young people in your circle of influence catch a vision of what Jesus has planned for their lives and to invite them to take important steps in that direction. One word spoken, one invitation made, one personal testimony shared, one verse of God’s word read can be the turning point in an entire life.

For more information and resources visit: http://www.youthbaptismalsabbath.org
Share your stories of youth baptism as a comment. Watch for blog comments in upcoming issues of the GLEANER.

Tags: baptism, youth
Posted in Current Events | No Comments »

**Idaho Evangelism Update**

Monday, October 12th, 2009
Evangelistic efforts continue throughout the northwest this fall. Here's an update about a recent series in Idaho.

Hi Partners in Soul Winning—

I just received word from Ron Clouzet that their Field School of Evangelism, based in the Caldwell Seventh-day Adventist Church, is wrapping up with 44 decisions for baptism, including 22 already baptized and 12 more scheduled for baptism in the next few weeks with the remainder to be cleared soon.

Praise the Lord! The next time someone tells you that “Public evangelism doesn't work anymore” you might want to cheer them up with this great news!

Blessings to you,

*Dan Serns*
Ministerial/Soul Winning, Global Missions, Church Planting
North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Does your church have a story to share? Let us know by adding a comment!

Posted in Current Events | No Comments »

**Check Him Out Episodes Now Online**

Monday, October 12th, 2009

The latest NPUC MOMENTUM series, Check Him Out, is now available for online preview. Each meeting with José Rojas is available from Motionbox.

Program 1:
Watch for Check Him Out on Hope Church Channel in November. The programs will also be available for purchase as a DVD set.

Posted in Current Events | No Comments »

MOMENTUM EUGENE: Rolling On

Thursday, September 24th, 2009

Our production continues each night with postitive results. By the third or fourth night the volunteers and technical crew tend to settle into a comfort zone and things start to become more smooth. José is keeping audiences captivated with his energetic storytelling, and presenting God in basic and authentic terms. This is a series you’ll definitely want to track down on DVD, and not just because of the exceptional camera skills!

More pictures.

Share your pictures from Check Him Out (or any other event your church, school or service group is involved in) with the NPUC Adventists Photo Group.

Tags: check him out, eugene, Momentum
Posted in Current Events | No Comments »

MOMENTUM EUGENE: More behind the scenes photos.

Sunday, September 20th, 2009
Click on each photo for more information.

Posted in Current Events | No Comments »
As promised, I’ll be doing my best to extract a few behind-the-scenes glimpses of Check Him Out, the latest NPUC Momentum series in Eugene, Ore., as the production moves forward. The days leading up to these events are always extremely busy. Volunteers and equipment converge on the production site (in this case an exhibition hall at the Lane County Fairgrounds), and in a matter of days are transformed into a powerful evangelistic effort.

By the time I arrived on site Thursday evening, much of the stage had already taken shape. Because this event isn’t taking place in a church or auditorium we have more control over the appearance of the set. It’s going to be a fun and contemporary atmosphere.
Watch for additional images on the GLEANER Online gallery on Flickr.

If you live in the Eugene area consider coming to this event. Even if you don’t, keep us in your prayers.

Cheers,

CJ

Posted in Current Events | No Comments »

2009 International Pathfinder Camporee Photos

Friday, August 14th, 2009

Things have been going full bore at Oshkosh, and it’s been hard to stay on top of regular updates. But pictures probably speak better than words. Check out some of the camporee photos from the NPUC Adventists group on Flickr. Feel free to add your images to the group pool as well. The slideshow will automatically be updated to include any photos from the NPUC pool that include the tag “camporee.”
Feel free to add comments to this post, sharing your thoughts, memories and reflections from camporee.

Tags: camporee, oshkosh, pathfinders
Posted in Current Events | No Comments »

Oshkosh: Wednesday

Wednesday, August 12th, 2009

Today I spent some quality time with several NPUC Pathfinder clubs. I was introduced to the joy of pin trading by Elisha Mvundura, Kenton Fritz and Ryan Swena of the Chehalis (Wash.) Mountaineers. I visited with Tracy Wood, Oregon Conference associate youth ministries director, who showed me where a dust devil lifted a tent and awning from the East Salem (Ore.) campsite more than 30 feet in the air, depositing it in the McMinnville (Ore.) campsite. Debris, including metal pipes two inches in diameter, were driven into the ground just feet from where unsuspecting McMinnville pathfinders were sitting. Miraculously no one was injured, and members of several other clubs helped the McMinnville group to safety.

I also met seven youth leaders from Tanzania, who were invited to join the Hillsboro (Ore.) Crazys for camporee. The group shared experiences from their trip. “There are many people and activities,” says Emmanuel Ngussa, Tanzania Union Mission district pastor and youth sponsor. “Everyone here seems to like people. They are all friends.”

Watch for the latest photos on the NPUC Adventists Flickr group (and feel free to add your own pictures of camporee to the group pool).

You can also find photos and stories from camporee at www.adventistphoto.com.

Tags: camporee, oshkosh, pathfinders
Posted in Current Events | No Comments »

Photos and Stories from Oshkosh

Tuesday, August 11th, 2009
I’m on location in Oshkosh, literally in the midst of camporee. I’m basking in all the luxury an air conditioned Communication trailer can provide. Don’t feel too jealous for me. Even the biggest VIP’s use the same restroom facilities as every other Pathfinder. I’ll be heading out soon to join fellow communicators in attempting to document this gathering of 35,000 Pathfinders from more than 60 countries (a number down from 100 due to economic issues, swine flu travel restrictions etc.).

If you want to check out the very latest photos and stories from Camporee head over to Adventistphoto.com and click away.

If you’re on site and snapping photos of your own, feel free to add them to the NPUC Adventists Flickr Group.

Also worth noting. The local Target reports a spike in sales yesterday to the tune of $40,000. Word on the street is that even more people went to Wal Mart.

Cheers!

-CJ

Tags: camporee, oshkosh, pathfinder
Poster in Current Events | No Comments »
Tip Sheet

**Holiday Stories: Timing is Everything**

Wednesday, November 18th, 2009

As the holiday season approaches churches, schools and service groups spring into action with a flurry of themed events and activities. We look forward to hearing about your events and activities, and sharing your stories with our readers. As you partake of your Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s events here’s a few things to keep in mind.

The December issue of the GLEANER went to press the first week of November, and the January 2010 issue of the GLEANER is already in production. That means the soonest your stories can appear in the print GLEANER is February 2010. The deadline for that issue is **Jan. 4, 2010**. In order for your holiday stories to appear within two months of when they happened the *must* be in by this deadline.

Christmas stories will still be considered for the March 2010 issue of the GLEANER. The deadline for that issue is Jan. 28, 2010. No Christmas stories will appear in print beyond the March issue. Keep in mind, we are always working about two-months in advance at the GLEANER. Timely submission of stories is critical.

Remember, your story can also run on the [GLEANER Web site](http://www.gleaner.org) (which can be updated as often as new stories are submitted) and in the weekly [GLEANER E-Newsletter](http://www.gleaner.org/)

Posted in Tip Sheet | No Comments »

**We are FAMILY**

Tuesday, October 20th, 2009

According to our highly unofficial statistics, one of the most popular sections of the GLEANER is the Family Section. This includes Births, Weddings, Milestones and At Rest. Even if you never write anything else for the GLEANER, chances are you’ll submit information for a Family Section announcement.

For information on how to submit to the GLEANER, you can find it on our [Contributors’ Information](http://www.gleaner.org/) page. In addition, there’s a few other things you should keep in mind:

The Family Section of the GLEANER is used to populate Adventist historical archives. Every issue’s information gets added to the [Center For Adventist Research Databases](http://www.adventistarchives.org). In order for those databases to be effective all necessary information need to be included.

When listing women’s names in Family Section announcements it is very important to include their maiden name. Place the maiden name in parentheses immediately following their first name.

As with the rest of the GLEANER please include a state reference for any city listed in a Family Section announcement. Refer to the [AP State Abbreviations](http://www.gleaner.org/) list as a reference.

Even if surviving family members are not from the North Pacific Union (or active members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church) their information should still be included in the Family Section announcements, as it may be useful to researchers using the CAR databases.
Please include contact information with all announcements you submit. We may need to ask you for additional information in order to make your announcement complete. Incomplete information can delay your announcement appearing in the GLEANER.

If you have any additional questions that can’t be answers through our website, please email our Copy Coordinator at gleaner@nw.npuc.org.

Tags: family announcements
Posted in Tip Sheet | No Comments »

**Add Some Spice to Your Shots**

Wednesday, August 26th, 2009

During the summer my camera all but lives around my neck. I wouldn’t be surprised if I have a tan line from the neck strap. It seems like there’s no end of things going on that you can photograph. But one challenge I find myself struggling with is filling my memory card with shots that all look pretty much the same.

If you share my struggle you might enjoy this video from Mark Thiessen, National Geographic photographer. Armed with a trusty point and shoot digital camera, he demonstrates a couple great ways to enhance up your vacation/tourist photography. As you watch, be on the look for these themes:

1. **Change your perspective.** One thing I notice about almost all my “boring” shots is they were taken from approximately 6 feet off the ground (my height). Think high and low to give a fresh look to your shot.

2. **Get close.** Your eyes tend to see a lot more than the camera can see, and with greater detail. A scene that looks amazing to you at life-size may look only so-so as an 8×10 and even worse as a 4×6. Look at how Thiessen captures isolated details from a scene that result in memorable photographs.

3. **Repeating Patterns.** A tree-lined road, a picket fence or even a brick wall can provide an excellent chance to capture repeating patterns. But pay close attention to how Thiessen captures the repeating pillars in the video. Note what he does *not* do. He does not simply back up and shoot them straight on. A row of pillars from one side of the frame to the other would have much less impact than his dramatic shot with curves and diagonal lines. This rule also applies to groups of people. Whenever possible, try to avoid putting everyone shoulder to shoulder and backing up. Your subjects don’t want to look like they are in a police lineup!
Attribution: What’s Your Claim to Fame?

Wednesday, August 26th, 2009

Who are you?
It may be obvious to you, or you may still be trying to figure it out. But it’s a question that must be answered if you are mentioned in the GLEANER. For our purposes it’s important to know your first and last name and how you are connected to the story you are mentioned in. Easy enough, right? Well there’s a little more to it.

Attribution:
When someone is mentioned by name for the first time in a GLEANER article (first reference) they should be identified by:
Name, Organization, Position within the organization.

Examples:
- John Smith, Sunnytown Church member
- Jeff Jeffries, mission trip participant
- Barack Obama, United States president

We think it’s wonderful if you have an additional title such as Sister/Brother, Elder, Esq., World’s Greatest Dad… but you need not include them in your attribution as we will simply delete them from the article before it is printed in the GLEANER.

If you are blessed to have a suffix, such as Max Torkelsen II, NPUC president, it is appropriate to include the suffix, followed by a comma, the first time your name is mentioned. GLEANER style does not include commas on both sides of the suffix (Max Torkelsen, II).

Even if the only time your name is mentioned is in a photo caption we still need to know your first/last name and how you are connected to the story.

Second Reference:
Once you have established who someone is in an article we don’t need that explanation every time their name is mentioned. A last name reference will do. “Smith worked on the project for six months.”

Authors:
Our readers also want to know who is writing stories they see in the GLEANER. If you write a story we need similar attribution
to the people mentioned in the story: Name, Church or Organization, Connection to the group or story.

When I write an article for the GLEANER, I am “CJ Anderson, GLEANER intern.” When I write an article for my home church I am “CJ Anderson, Cedar Creek Church member.” If you are a church communication director or secretary that’s an appropriate title to include.

Have a style question for the GLEANER editorial staff? Add it as a comment and we’ll provide an answer in a future post.

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**Your State: Short and Sweet**

Thursday, August 20th, 2009

Where are you?

Hopefully you know the answer to that question, but our readers may not. Sure, many readers know exactly where Treasure Valley, Ravensdale or Whitefish are. Most of us probably have a pretty good idea where North Pole might be located. But what about Springfield? While every U.S. state does not have a city named Springfield (contrary to popular rumors), 35 states do. The point is, when you are writing for a five-state audience it becomes important to put yourself, and your story, on the map.

Even if you live in a big city like Seattle or Portland (ah… what if we happened to get a story from Portland, Maine?) it’s important to include the state in which the city you mention is located. The GLEANER style for listing states is to use the Associated Press abbreviations for states. This is almost always different than your two-letter postal abbreviation. For quick reference here are the AP abbreviations for Northwest states:

- Alaska - Ala.
- Idaho - Idaho (no abbreviation, just include the full name)
- Montana - Mont.
- Oregon - Ore.
- Washington - Wash.

If you want the full list of AP state abbreviations you can find it [here](http://gleanerblog.mcmds.com/category/tips). This list also include the Chicago Manual of Style and postal abbreviations for each state.

If you happen to attend a church that does not share its name with the city in which it resides, we’ll need the city/state reference so our reader know where to find you when they want to shower your congregation with praise. Put the city/state reference of your church in parentheses following the first mention of your church’s name.

Example: Love of Life Fellowship (Federal Way, Wash.).

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