NPUC Tithe Goes Up in 2010

Amidst the continued economic challenges, Northwest Adventist members continue to respond with a faithful tithe. Total tithe contributed throughout 2010 increased by 1.35 percent compared with the previous year. Montana Conference tithe showed the largest increase at just above 3 percent. Oregon Conference had an increase of more than 2.6 percent. If you have questions about how tithe is distributed throughout the NPUC and the world church, check out the feature “Your Tithe Dollar: Where in the World Does it Go?” in the February issue of the GLEANER, coming soon to your mailbox.

Robert Hasting to Leave for Arizona

Robert Hastings will be leaving his position as Association Treasurer at the North Pacific Union Conference to become the Arizona Conference treasurer. He started his work at the NPUC right out of college, over 23 years ago. Hasting, his wife Cindy and two daughters will make the transition to Arizona by this summer. “It has been a pleasure to serve the members of the Northwest,” says Hastings. “I know as someone who never dreamed of working for the church, if you are willing to be led by the Lord, He will take you places you never imagined.”

José Rojas Presentations Online

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
18–20: UCC Christian Men’s Summit
21: President’s Day
24: April Ad/Article Deadline

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

April
1–3: Wash. Impact Your World Retreat
9: Ore. Ministry Fest South
21: June Ad/Article Deadline

GLEANER Blogs

- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- MAXimum Perspectives
- Current GLEANER Issue
- Finance
- Current Events
- Tip Sheet
During the fall of 2010, José Rojas presented a series of eight messages in Tacoma, Wash. They are now on DVD and also available online at the NPUC website in both English and Spanish. Check them out HERE as well as additional evangelistic and training video resources from Jac Colón, Dick Hanson and others.

Adventist Medical Center Wins 2010 Best of Portland Award
Adventist Medical Center, in Portland, Ore., has been selected for the 2010 Best of Portland Award in the medical centers category by the U.S. Commerce Association. The USCA “Best of Local Business” Award program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country each year. Companies are selected for having achieved exceptional marketing success in their community and business category while also having enhanced the positive image of business through service to customers and the community.

Subscribe to REACH North America News
REACH North America News is a must for pastors, elders, church leadership and anyone who has a passion for outreach and evangelism. If your church friends and leaders are not getting this valuable newsletter, invite them to subscribe by e-mailing NETCoordinator@nad.adventist.org. REACH North America News is also archived weekly on the AdventSource website. Search for “Reach” to find the newsletters.

Gallup Poll Finds Religious Folks Score High in Wellbeing
A new analysis of more than 550,000 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index interviews conducted over the last year and a half finds that Americans who are the most religious also have the highest levels of wellbeing. The statistically significant relationship between religiousness and wellbeing holds up after controlling for numerous demographic variables. Higher levels of healthy behaviors, life evaluation, work environment perceptions, and emotional health affect religious Americans’ high wellbeing. Want to study this a bit more? Check out the findings in more depth HERE.

Not Your Ordinary 777
The 777 is one of the world's largest aircraft and yet it isn't nearly as powerful as thousands of believers praying for the Holy Spirit. The 7-7-7 stands for Seventh-day Adventists praying together at 7 a.m. or 7 p.m., or both, seven days a week. Please add this special prayer time to your day. For prayer resources and to learn more click HERE.
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
October 28, 2010

Religious Americans Enjoy Higher Wellbeing

Relationship holds when controlling for key demographics

by Frank Newport, Sangeeta Agrawal, and Dan Witters

This article is the first in a special multipart series on religiosity and wellbeing in America.

PRINCETON, NJ -- A new analysis of more than 550,000 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index interviews conducted over the last year and a half finds that Americans who are the most religious also have the highest levels of wellbeing. The statistically significant relationship between religiousness and wellbeing holds up after controlling for numerous demographic variables. Higher levels of healthy behaviors, life evaluation, work environment perceptions, and emotional health affect religious Americans' high wellbeing.

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index Composite Score, by Religiosity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very religious</th>
<th>Moderately religious</th>
<th>Nonreligious</th>
<th>Difference between very religious and nonreligious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-Being Index score</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index
Data collected Jan. 2, 2009-July 28, 2010

For the purposes of this analysis, an American's relative degree of religiousness is based on responses to two questions asking about the importance of religion and church attendance, yielding three specific groups:

- **Very religious** -- Religion is an important part of daily life and church/synagogue/mosque attendance occurs at least every week or almost every week. This group constitutes 43.7% of the adult population.
- **Moderately religious** -- All others who do not fall into the very religious or nonreligious groups but who gave valid responses on both religion questions. This group constitutes 26.6% of the adult population.
- **Nonreligious** -- Religion is not an important part of daily life and church/synagogue/mosque attendance occurs seldom or never. This group constitutes 29.7% of the adult population.

Previous research has shown that religiosity, defined either as church attendance or self-reported
importance of religion, is related to age, gender, race and ethnicity, region and state of the country, socioeconomic status, marital status, and child-bearing status. Because wellbeing is also related to these variables, all of these characteristics are controlled for in this Gallup analysis.

The difference in wellbeing between the religious and nonreligious populations is highly statistically significant given the large sample size this research uses, and would occur by chance alone on an infrequent basis. The difference is also notable given that Well-Being Index scores do not vary widely across sub-groups of the U.S. population. For example, across all 50 states, the range in Well-Being Index scores from the highest scoring state to the lowest scoring state is about 10 points.

**Wellbeing Higher for Religious Americans Across All Six Well-Being Sub-Indexes**

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index comprises six sub-indexes. Very religious Americans enjoy at least modestly higher scores across all six of the key wellbeing areas compared with moderately and nonreligious Americans.

*Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index Domain Scores, by Religiosity*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very religious</th>
<th>Moderately religious</th>
<th>Nonreligious</th>
<th>Difference between very religious and nonreligious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Evaluation</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Health</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Health</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Behaviors</td>
<td>66.3</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Environment</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Access</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index
Data collected Jan. 2, 2009-July 28, 2010

GALLUP

The most substantial differences between the very religious and nonreligious groups are in the Healthy Behaviors, Life Evaluation, Work Environment, and Emotional Health indexes. Differences between the very religious and nonreligious on the Physical Health and Basic Access indexes are smaller, but statistically significant. In both of these cases, the larger gap exists between the very religious and *moderately* religious groups, rather than between the very religious and nonreligious groups.

The large distinction between those who are religious and nonreligious on the Healthy Behaviors Index is largely because of differences in smoking habits, and to a lesser degree, healthy eating...
Implications

Americans who are very religious have higher wellbeing than those who are less religious, a relationship that holds even after controlling for several related demographic and geographic variables.

This study does not allow for a precise determination of why this might be the case. It is possible that Americans who have higher wellbeing may be more likely to choose to be religious than those with lower wellbeing. It is also possible that some third variable could be driving certain segments of the U.S. population to be more religious and to have higher wellbeing.

It is also possible that the relationship is straightforward, that something about religiosity, defined as a personal importance placed on religion and frequent religious service attendance, in turn leads to a higher level of personal wellbeing. Religious service attendance promotes social interaction and friendship with others, and Gallup analysis has clearly shown that time spent socially and social networks themselves are positively associated with wellbeing. Religion generally involves more meditative states and faith in a higher power, both of which have been widely used as methods to lower stress, reduce depression, and promote happiness. Religion provides mechanisms for coping with setbacks and life's problems, which in turn may reduce stress, worry, and anger. Many religions, including Christianity, which is by far the dominant religion in the U.S., embody tenets of positive relationships with one's neighbors and charitable acts, which may lead to a more positive mental outlook.

Highly religious Americans' healthier behaviors may have multiple causes, including for example culturally negative norms against such behaviors as smoking and alcohol consumption in a number of religions. It may also be possible that the lower emotional wellbeing of less religious Americans puts them in a state in which they are more susceptible to non-healthy behaviors.

Gallup will continue to explore the relationship between wellbeing and religion in future articles.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index


Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index survey Jan. 2-July 28, 2010, with a random sample of 554,066 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling. Of this sample, very religious respondents comprised the plurality (43.2%), with slightly more than one-quarter each for moderately religious and nonreligious respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religiousness</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very religious</td>
<td>242,054</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately religious</td>
<td>147,325</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-religious</td>
<td>164,687</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For results based on the religiosity groups of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ±0.5 percentage point for each group.

Generalized linear model analysis was used to estimate marginal scores for all of the six indexes after controlling for age (in years), gender, race/ethnicity, marital status, education (number of years), log of income, and region of the country.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone-only status, cell phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

For more details on Gallup’s polling methodology, visit [http://www.gallup.com/](http://www.gallup.com/).

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Millionaire Candy King Tithed

Thursday, January 20th, 2011

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.

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 “Adven*st.” 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 “Adven*st 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 “Adven*st Health.”

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.

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.

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**August 30, 2009**

Wednesday, October 7th, 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.


Posted in MAXimum Perspectives | No Comments »

**August 28, 2009**

Wednesday, October 7th, 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.

Posted in MAXimum Perspectives | No Comments »

**August 26, 2009**

Wednesday, October 7th, 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

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

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.

Posted in MAXimum Perspectives | No Comments »

August 21, 2009

Wednesday, October 7th, 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.

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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.

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 »
CognitiveGenesis: The Adventist Advantage

Tuesday, June 30th, 2009

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?

Posted in Current Gleaner Issue | 1 Comment »

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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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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 positive 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](http://gleanerblog.mcmds.com/category/current-events).

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](http://www.npuc.org/adventists/flickr) (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](http://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

Posted in Current Events | No Comments »
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 (which can be updated as often as new stories are submitted) and in the weekly GLEANER E-Newsletter.

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 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. 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 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.

Posted in Tip Sheet | No Comments »

**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://www.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.).

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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